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# COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE HORSES CATTLE SHEEP SWINE ETC.

OLDEST AGRICULTURAL AND LIVE STOCK JOURNAL IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Sixty-Eighth Year.

ST. LOUIS, MO., DECEMBER 5, 1915.

Volume LXVIII. No. 36.



WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS



## WHAT OUR READERS THINK & DO

### SOUTHEAST FARMERS SHOULD PROFIT FROM EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR.

Editor, Rural World:—We had our first killing frost of this season the night of November 15, and what little vegetation this failed to get was finished by one on the following night. This was followed by a 15 or more hours' rain which left the ground in a soggy condition; and the putting in of the winter small grains, which has been scattering enough this fall, was made more so, extending over into December at least.

But with all this the season of warmth has been of such length that a large part of the velvet bean crop—the beans themselves—are fully matured and many of our farmers are saving their next year's seed beans. And, considering that these were \$5 to \$7 a bushel this year, and that many had to pick for rotten beans before planting, it would seem that nature is trying to even up things this year. The late season has delayed potato digging, which was done between the 15th and 20th of the month, though some got impatient and went at it before frost; and many report that, though the yield is excellent and the tubers of good size, the two spells of wet and cool weather during October caused the potatoes to begin rotting in the ground.

All in all, I don't believe I ever saw our farmers in a better shape to begin another crop year; though it must be said that many, owing to the now almost yearly appearance of cholera, since the epidemic of 1912, which barely left breeding stock, will have more or less meat and lard to buy. But this isn't going to be so hard another year as this, as there are so many more that have, owing to the good price received for cotton and their frugality in making debts, been able to even accounts; in fact, a large number have surplus money from their crop of cotton, and with this used judiciously it shouldn't be surprising if this year's low debt record is duplicated again.

But, will our farmers here in the southeast have learned anything from the lesson of last year? The pessimists, cynics, or wags (I don't know exactly to which class such belong), say not;—that his (the cotton farmer's) cranium is as thick and impervious as the armor of a dreadnaught. However that may be, those of the southeast should consider long before they proceed to put in a large crop of cotton this next year—and, not do it.

We are told that many of man's misfortunes are of his own making, and should low-priced cotton result next season from over-planting, and over-production nearly always results from this, the farmer will have no one to thank for such a condition but himself; and the members of the above-mentioned order, the cynics, etc., will have more proof of their claims as to the condition of the southern cotton farmer's mental condition or capacity.

—R. M. McDaniel, Georgia.

### CLEAN WATER FOR CATTLE.

Editor, Rural World:—At a recent meeting of a branch of the National Farmers' Union, in England, an interesting paper was read by its chairman on "Abortion," and amongst other things mentioned was that of a farmer who suffered serious losses for five years until he observed that his pond contained stagnant and impure water. When he closed the pond and substituted a supply of good spring water the disease disappeared from amongst his animals. What an old, old experience this is of cattle drinking from stagnant pools of filthy water, and if one only knew how many cases of serious losses might be traced to this cause! There are many pools which provide water for cattle situated close

to buildings which are little better than sewage pits, as they are the receptacles for drainage from dung heaps, and the wonder is that as the direct result of this sort of thing that disease amongst cattle is not more prevalent than is the case at present.

—H. Mortimer, Illinois.

### ABOUT THE INDIANS OF OSAGE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA.

Editor, Rural World:—Osage county, Oklahoma, has a superabundance of corn, oats, kafir, alfalfa and prairie hay, so that 80,000 Texas steers have been imported to feed and fatten on these stuffs this winter.

This, the largest county in Oklahoma, comprises 1,420,000 acres, most of it not under cultivation. Southeastern Osage county is rocky, hilly and timbered; northwestern Osage is mostly black loam prairie.

A few of the 2,229 Osage Indians do manual labor, but most of them farm by proxy. A large majority of the tribe are mixed bloods, and several of them do farming and stockraising.

The Osage tribal council consists of eight members, the chief and seven members are full bloods. Several of these Indians are profound ex-savage statesmen. The Osage allotment act, framed by Osage statesmen, is the most comprehensive, sensible and best allotment bill ever passed by Congress. These Indians know what is the best for them and they loudly object being too much ruled by the Department of the Interior.

Most of the adult males are now on the warpath for better terms from the oil and gas companies. There are only 2,000 oil and gas wells in Osage county; when, if properly developed, there would be 6,000 wells, netting pretty fat royalties to the Indians.

W. M. Dial, an inter-married white man, who has lived with these Indians the last 26 years, is the most effective defender of the Indians' imperilled rights and privileges. The Osages are in favor of leasing their oil and gas lands to the Uncle Sam and other independent companies.

A goodly number of the full-bloods own automobiles. Fire-water is very scarce in Pawhuska, and boozey persons are rare curiosities.

The Hessian flies injured the tender wheat plants to a large extent. The wheat sown during November escaped injury.—Matt Duhr, Oklahoma.

### SOME FACTS REGARDING "FEEDS AND FEEDING."

"Feeds and Feeding," by Prof. W. A. Henry, was first published in March, 1889, and was received with immediate and widespread favor by practical stock men as well as by the professors and students of animal husbandry in the colleges and schools throughout the country. In 1910, after nine editions had come from the press, the book was entirely rewritten and improved in many ways. Owing to the large amount of new data made available by the recent work of the experiment stations a second revision was begun over two years ago, by Professor Henry and by Prof. F. B. Morrison, who assisted with the first revision. The book is published (\$2.25, post-paid) by The Henry-Morrison Co., Madison, Wis.

Not only has the most recent published data been incorporated in this revision, but in numerous instances, through the co-operation of the workers at many stations, the results of experiments just completed have been furnished for inclusion in "Feeds and Feeding." This edition thus contains much valuable information on the feeding of live stock which is not yet in other printed form.

"Feeds and Feeding" presents in a brief and simple manner the most important facts concerning the science and practice of all phases of live stock feeding. The reader with only a common school education may easily understand it, yet it is so accurate and complete that it is acknowledged by the animal husbandmen of the agricultural colleges to be the most authoritative book on live stock feeding. Indeed, it has been quoted as authority in the bulletins and reports of practically all the experiment stations of the United States, as well as in the publications of the United States de-

## AGENTS! A NEW ONE

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partment of agriculture. This is an honor which, we believe, has been gained by no other book on agriculture. Thousands of copies have gone into the homes of practical stockmen. "Feeds and Feeding" is the one book that every stockman needs.

### SELECTING AND FEEDING HOGS FOR HOME BUTCHERING.

Crisp, frosty mornings warn us that hog-killing time is coming. The farmer is entitled to the best pork that can be produced. The hogs should have some muscle-building material in addition to the corn, so as to get a proper mixture of lean and fat meat. Oil meal, shorts, and tankage are very good to add to corn and wheat may well form part of the feed, especially this year when there is so much field-damaged grain on hand.

Select hogs that combine as many as possible of the good points of bacon and lard breeds so that there will be reasonably good sides as well as hams and shoulders when the carcasses are cut up. Keep the animals selected growing rapidly, but do not let them get too fat, in order to get the most desirable hams and bacon cuts, even though this method does not bring as much lard.

One or two hogs may be killed whenever meat is wanted for immediate use but the main supply for the year should not be killed until late in December. Before that time there is too much danger from the warm weather which causes so much loss of meat every year. Watch the weather forecast and make special provision if you know a warm spell is coming.

Keep more hogs than you need for own use so that you will have some country-cured meat to sell. Many people will buy it in preference to anything else, especially if you establish a reputation in this line. If you live in Missouri, be sure to exhibit at the ham and bacon show at Columbia, Farmers' Week.—E. A. Trowbridge, Missouri College of Agriculture.

### OHIO FARMERS' WEEK.

Combining the annual meetings of the Ohio State Dairymen's Association, the State Farmers' Institute, the Ohio State Corn Show and the Ohio Vegetable Growers' Association, the fourth annual Farmers' Week which will be held at Columbus, January 31 to February 4, promises to be one of the greatest agricultural meetings ever held in Ohio. Sixty lectures by the leading farm authorities of the corn-belt will form the three session, five-day course which will be offered free to the farmers of Ohio.

### Good Reasoning.

Little Willie's mother had made him a fine new pair of knickers, but the little boy complained that they were uncomfortably tight. "They're tighter than my skin, mummy!" he declared. "Don't be silly, dear," remonstrated his mother. "They can't possibly be tighter than your skin." "But they are,

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mummy; because I can sit down in my skin, but I can't sit down in these trousers!"

Missouri has the largest lettuce farm west of the Mississippi river and the second largest in the world.



# COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

Vol. 68, No. 36.

ST. LOUIS, MO., DECEMBER 5, 1915.

SEMI-MONTHLY.

## Pigeons for Pets or for Profit

Solid Enjoyment and Interest May be Extracted by Old or Young From These Feathered Friends—Description of Varieties and Their Care.

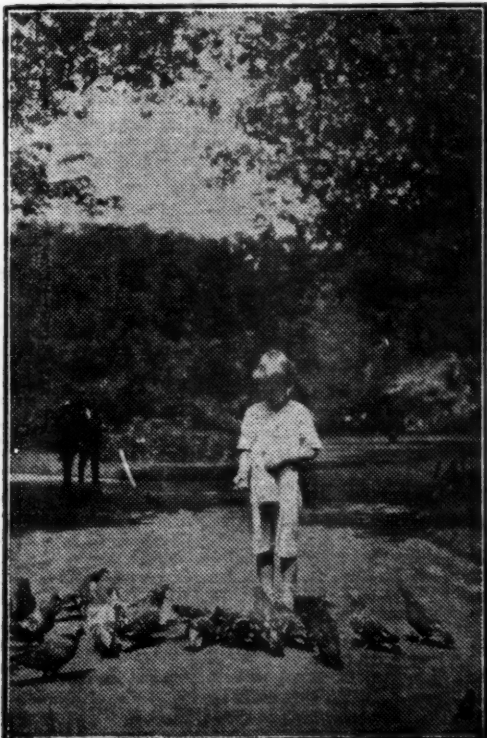
By F. H. Sweet, Virginia.

WE read much of the profit to be derived from raising pigeons for squabs, of the money to be made from the "slaughter of the innocents," but little as to their desirability as pets. Many a boy with his single pair or his small loft of fantails, Homers, Tumblers, Pouters or other varieties, will vouch for the fact that this is all wrong, that more solid enjoyment and interest can be extracted from his feathered pets than from a houseful of inanimate toys. Many a brain-weary professional man finds needed relaxation, and life takes on a more roseate hue, in the company of his cooing and strutting friends. The loft may be a soap-box in the corner of some outbuilding, and shelter but a single pair of pigeons, or it may be more pretentious, and house a larger flock in greater variety. In any event, the pleasure derived is real, helpful, improving, and the cost small. A single mated pair will give a start, and a small box in some out-of-the-way corner, with two nests, will serve them for a home. Many a city boy, with little or no ground space, has his pigeon coop on the roof of the house, and he is elevated in more senses than one by his associations there.

### Interesting Companions.

Aside from any utilitarian qualities they may possess, this family of birds is well worthy of the consideration of all country dwellers. Most people like to have about them some animals which are responsive to kind treatment. Most varieties of pigeons respond readily to kind attention, and many of them become very tame. The care and breeding of pigeons is also an excellent method of cultivating the faculty of close observation and careful attention to minute details, and is thus to be commended to anyone, young or old.

In most of our cities large flocks of pigeons may be found building their nests and raising their young in the steeples of churches, towers of public buildings, and various other secure retreats. Belonging to no man, they seek their food in the streets, about warehouses, and wherever scattered grain may be found. I have seen them about the ferry houses, and even on the ferry boats, walking unconcernedly about almost under the feet of the hurrying passengers. I have known clerks in some of the business offices to buy pigeon feed to scatter in the courts and on the window ledges to lure these aerial wayfarers where they could be observed, and thus enliven the monotony of the caged workers. And a hardened individual he must be who would harm one of these trusting innocents!



For Pets or Pets, Regardless of Profit, Let the Boy Raise Pigeons

Why, then, should not the occupants of a country place enjoy the companionship of such easily raised and cheaply kept feathered pets? A point in their favor is that, if desired, they may be made to pay their way. The young of about all the varieties make excellent squabs—if one have the heart to kill them. If not, and if good birds be procured for foundation stock, a fair income may be secured from the sale of breeders. I have in mind one boy, who started only a few years ago by keeping a few pigeons as pets, who has won prizes at some of our best shows, and now has a demand for birds beyond his ability to supply, at prices that most of us would consider high. His pets have much more than paid their way.

### How Young Are Hatched and Fed.

Pigeons form a family distinct from true poultry. The anatomical structure is entirely different. Only two eggs are laid before incubation begins. The male and female both sit on the nest, though, true to tradition, the male does only about one-fourth of the day's work. But the most singular distinction is the peculiar method by which the young are fed. The latter, unlike chickens, are helpless when hatched, and remain so until near maturity. They are fed in the nest by the parent birds, with what has sometimes been called "pigeon's milk," a curdy secretion produced in the crops of the parent birds only at hatching time, which is disgorged into the beaks of the young. After about three days, a little of the ordinary food of the pigeons is mingled with it, after which the curdy secretion decreases for about a week or ten days, when it ceases entirely.

The young reach full size in about a month or a little more, so that the stock may be increased very rapidly, as the female usually lays two more eggs before the young are out of the nest. Some varieties hatch and raise as many as six or eight pairs each year, and occasionally we hear of some that exceed this.

### Many Varieties.

Our domestic pigeons are descendants of the Rock Dove, or Blue Rock Dove. It is a curious fact that none of the other species of doves is capable of domestication. The number of existing varieties into which pigeons have become divided is bewildering to the novice. The requirements for some of the varieties, according to show standards, hinge upon so slight a matter as a definite number of white feathers in a wing.

Most, if not all, of the varieties make good pets if properly handled. Probably the best guide in selecting the variety to be kept would be the personal preference of the one most interested.

### Homers and Fantails.

The best known variety of pigeon is probably the Homer. Its distinguishing characteristic is its remarkable power of flight, and its attachment to its home. The birds of this variety are strongly built, yet trim and neat and pleasing to the eye. This is the variety most largely used for squab breeding, both pure-bred and crossed with Runts and other varieties, and hence are excellent for the amateur who wishes to make his pets pay their way by sacrificing them to market demands.

There are several different colors of Fantails, the white being most popular. The Fantails are bred for a great spread of tail, which is carried upright, or rather forward, like a fan. The back is short, breast full, neck long and slender, and head carried upright, meeting the tail.

### Pouters and Tumblers.

The Pouter has long, feathered legs, a long but slender body, an erect carriage, and has the power of filling the crop with air to an enormous extent, forming an almost perfect globe. This gives it a very odd appearance, and many fancy the variety on this account. There are several colors. A young Pigmy Pouter, left an orphan, and given to a lady who fed and cared for it, became so tame that it would ride on her shoulder all over the house and garden. If she were in a room filled with people, and gave a peculiar call, the bird would seek her out at once, and manifest unmistakable affection.

One old fancier, who has kept a large number of varieties, declares that he considers the Short-faced Tumblers the best for pets, though, owing to their peculiar method of flight, they are often the victims of hawks and crows. The Tumbler is a small bird, with a peculiar carriage, globular head and diminutive beak. Its singular method of turning



A Boy With a Pet Pigeon Learns to Love the Life of Nature.

somersaults, or tumbling, in its flight, gives the name. Some very highly-bred specimens have this quality to such an extent as to be almost incapable of flight. Their peculiar antics are very amusing. Of the same class are the Parlor Tumblers, still less capable of flight, and much more given to tumbling or rolling.

### Miscellaneous Kinds.

Those mentioned are probably the leading varieties kept for pets, though there are several other candidates, each with its peculiar recommendations. Jacobins, Turbits, Owls, Dragons, Swallows and Magpies are a few of the other varieties to be noted. The only way to settle as to the variety to be kept for pleasure is to study the different kinds, select the one which, considered all around, is pleasing. It may be necessary to breed and handle several kinds before a choice is finally made. But there cannot fail to be much pleasure derived, as well as knowledge acquired, in the operation.

In preparing quarters for any breed of pigeons, bear in mind that each pair requires two nests, for the reason that the female lays her second hatching of eggs and begins to set on them before the first pair of young are large enough to leave the nest. And be sure to provide plenty of nesting material if you keep them confined. Pine needles are excellent for this purpose.

### TO REGULATE THE MILK SUPPLY.

There is some 87 per cent of water in milk, which fact is sufficient reason why every effort should be made to provide the cows with a pure water supply. Any dairy farmer knows how great is the influence of feeding watery food to cows; in fact, one often hears the expression that the milk has been watered through the cows. In a certain locality a number of farmers, whose characters were above suspicion, were recently fined for watering their milk, which condition was largely due to the watery nature of the food fed the cows, and the rank sloppy nature of the pastures. The excessive rain our farmers had to contend with this summer caused much slushy grass growth.

To what extent poor watery foods will reduce the percentage of solids in milk is a point still open for careful investigation. Although very slight, it is evident there is some reduction.

There are many more points of minor importance, all of which contribute towards the regulation of the milk supply; but none can be so important as regularity of feeding and milking. In many cases the usual routine is quite upset on Sundays, with the result that there is a great variation in the quantity and quality of milk. We need only to remark that it is the quickest and the cleanest milker that receives the largest amount of rich milk.—H. Mortimer, Illinois.



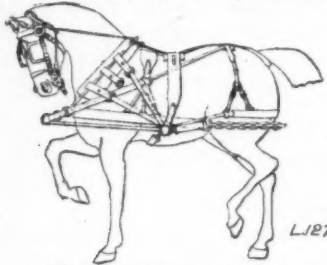
# Recent Inventions of Interest to Agriculture

By C. J. Lynde.

**T**HIS series of articles will appear in Colman's Rural World regularly throughout the fall and winter. Six inventions are here described and six different ones will be described in each issue that follows. Thus, the reader will be given six new ideas in farm mechanics twice a month. Keep the series for reference.

## Two-Collar Harness.

The harness shown here has a hame collar and also a breast collar. The traces are connected with the hame collar by two tugs on each side and with the breast collar by one large

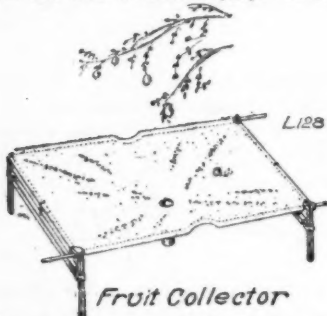


Two-Collar Harness.

tug on each side. It is claimed that this arrangement distributes the load between the shoulder and breast of the horse. It will be noticed also that the holdback is supported by a wither pad. This brings the weight of the yoke and pole on the withers and not on the neck.

## Fruit Collecting Apparatus.

When the skin of fruit is bruised or broken bacteria enter and the fruit decays. With the device shown here, it is claimed, that fruit can be shaken from the tree without injury. It consists of a metal frame with a cloth top. The fruit when shaken from the tree falls on the cloth and rolls through the central spout to the ground or to some receptacle. The frame is made of any convenient size and has on one side a small curved indentation which fits the trunk of the tree. Two such frames placed about the trunk would entirely surround the tree.

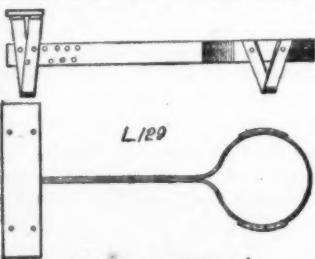


Fruit Collector

sists of a metal frame with a cloth top. The fruit when shaken from the tree falls on the cloth and rolls through the central spout to the ground or to some receptacle. The frame is made of any convenient size and has on one side a small curved indentation which fits the trunk of the tree. Two such frames placed about the trunk would entirely surround the tree.

## Milking Stool.

This stool serves as a seat for the milker and also as a support for the pail. It is made of metal except the



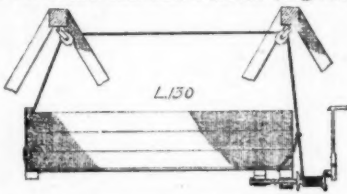
Milking Stool

small flat board which serves as the seat. The pail support and the seat have each two short metal legs.

## Wagon Box Hoist.

Before a wagon box can be elevated with this device, it must be equipped at the front end with a single beam to hold the rope loop, and at the rear end with two beams each having a U-shaped bracket to hold the windlass axle. The U brackets are large enough to allow the windlass to slip in and out readily and thus one windlass serves

for many boxes. The rope which passes through the pulleys has a loop at the front end and a metal ring near

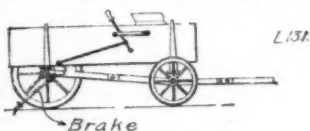


Wagon Box Hoist.

the rear end. In operation, the loop is passed about the front beam of the box and the other end of the rope is attached to the windlass. A separate rope loop with a hook is attached to the rear beam. The rope is wound up until the hook can engage the ring attached to the rope. The box is then held suspended until again needed.

## Wagon Brake.

The chief object of this brake is to prevent the wagon from backing when stopped on a hill. It consists of two sharp-pointed metal poles, one on each side. When the hand lever is moved

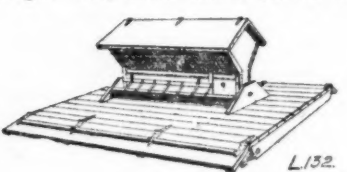


Wagon Brake.

back the pointed ends of the poles drop to the ground; when it is moved forward the poles are raised.

## Automatic Stock Feeder.

The hopper shaped bin of this feeder holds a supply of feed which passes down through openings to the troughs below. The feeder is placed on a movable platform to keep it out of the mud. The feed clogs in almost any hopper and to overcome this the present device has a forced feeder in each section of the trough. This is simply a metal lever pivoted near the center, one end of which projects up into the feed and the other down into the trough. This lower end is curved in-



Stock Feeder.

to a ring and when the animal shoves it back and forth the feed is brought down.

## CHOOSING A FARM—GREAT CARE IS NECESSARY.

Between now and the next crop season many farmers will choose new farms. Each step must be more carefully taken than ever before on the ladder whose rungs are the positions of hired man, tenant, mortgage owner, debt-free owner, and improving owner. Without such help as that of a wealthy father, it is no longer so easy to reach the top of this ladder without climbing the lower rungs. It was when land of virgin fertility could be bought for as little as \$1.25 an acre.

In fixing the cash values of land the renter or purchaser should be careful not to confuse economic with social or aesthetic factors. Unusually desirable houses, barns and fences may add to the cost of land out of proportion to the addition to their earning power and the buyer must consider whether he can afford certain things which bring great pleasure and satisfaction but no money return. Nearness to town and market similarly raise the price, partly for social rea-

sons, partly because they make it possible to market more cheaply and to market certain products which could not be grown profitably farther from town.

Fertile land is the great essential in farming but a question often raised is whether it is better to buy only the best land or to buy poorer land and build it up by applying the discoveries of the experiment stations and of the most successful farmers.

The personal preference and ability of the buyer must be considered in determining whether to buy a small farm at a higher price per acre and whether to buy only very fertile land with a view to producing only crops or to buying a mixed farm with some rough, well drained, portions for permanent pastures for live stock. Numerous other factors must also be considered, including the supply and price of labor, kind of neighbors and nearness to school, grange and church.—F. B. Mumford, Dean of the Missouri College of Agriculture.

## TIMOTHY MEADOWS RESPOND WELL TO MANURING.

A larger net return per ton of manure was secured from applications to timothy meadow land than to corn, oats or wheat in rotation in a 25-year test at the Missouri experiment station. In experiments conducted on fields in nearly every section of the state the use of from six to eight tons of barnyard manure per acre once during each four year-rotation gave annual returns of from \$1.60 to \$4.10 each year for each ton applied.

Even heavier applications than the supply on the average farm would permit have proved financially profitable. From a field which received seven tons per acre each year, 3.4 tons of timothy hay were cut July 1, 1915, and a second crop of 2.8 tons on September 15 of the same year or a total of 6.2 tons per acre as compared with 1.9 tons on an adjoining field similarly cropped, but unfertilized. On both fields the cropping had continued a quarter of a century without change of conditions.

The abundant rainfall this year made possible yields that would not be obtained during years when lack of moisture limited the use of the land could make of such abundant plant food, but these tests show that even in ordinary years the manure can well be applied to the timothy meadow as well as to the corn as has generally been believed.—C. A. McClair, Missouri College of Agriculture.

## FEEDING A MIXTURE TO MAKE DUCKS LAY.

A mash that will fatten young ducks and make mature ducks lay is recommended by the poultry husbandman of Clemson College, South Carolina. This mash may be fed throughout the year. It is made as follows:

	Pounds.
Cornmeal .....	50
Wheat shorts .....	50
Cottonseed meal .....	15
Ground lime rock (fertilizer lime, not caustic) .....	2½
Sharp gravel or sand .....	2
Fine table salt .....	½
Total .....	120

On the large duck farms they add about 10 per cent cut green or steamed alfalfa or clover hay, grass, rape, cooked small potatoes, turnips or similar vegetables. The green stuff is not necessary when ducks are on a green range, but it is beneficial even then that it adds bulk, variety and greater palatability.

Mix the mash with water or sour skimmilk or buttermilk to a crumbly moist condition and feed twice daily what the ducks will eat in 20 minutes.

Give a light feed of whole corn at noon. Place water in a wooden trough or galvanized iron vessel with a larger bottom than top. Have the water deep enough to reach above the nostrils and give the ducks an opportunity to clean out their nostrils in the water.

The home of the oldest herd of Shorthorn cattle west of the Mississippi river is in Missouri.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST CORN INSECTS.

Rotation of crops, keeping the land free of weeds and trash of all kinds, late fall plowing of infested lands, and properly nourishing the corn plants, are about the only practical preventives or remedial measures that can be applied to the insects that attack corn in different ways, according to James Troop, chief in entomology at the Purdue experiment station, in a bulletin on "How to Grow More and Better Corn."

"The effectiveness of certain fertilizers as repellants has not been definitely determined as to extent, but the application of manures and fertilizers which produce vigorous growth will at least help the plants to withstand the injury," writes Professor Troop, in commenting upon the difference between fields that had been treated and fields that were not given additional plant food. Illustrations show corn that was fertilized had been able to make a good development in spite of the insects, while unfertilized corn had seriously suffered.

## GROWS FIFTY-FIVE BUSHELS OF WHEAT PER ACRE.

Near Arcanum, Ohio, lives one of the most contented and happiest farm boys in the country. The thought of leaving the farm has never occurred to him, for why leave the farm when he can stay on it and raise such record-breaking crops as give him free trips to Washington and which fatten his bank account?

His name is Dewey Haines. Three years ago, he broke into prominence as the 14-year-old grower of 139 bush-



## Causes for Thankfulness the Year Around.

els of corn per acre and the winner of the famous 1912 Buckeye Boys' Corn Contest. At that time, there were many skeptics who said that it was an accident, that the boy's father had done most of the work and who gave every excuse for the lad's success. Two years ago there was nothing left to say, for the lad stood up well in the list.

Today there is not a skeptic. Late in July, Dewey Haines threshed his wheat. From a five-acre plot of Red Wave wheat he obtained a yield of 55 2-3 bushels per acre. With wheat at present prices, his crop is worth fully \$60 per acre. Besides this he stands a first-class chance of winning out in a \$1,000 wheat growing contest in which over 200 of the best farmers in Ohio are participating.

There is nothing spectacular about the methods used on the Haines farm, though besides Dewey, his two brothers have been crop contest winners. The farm is well-drained, good seed is used on all crops, the land well fitted, the crops planted on time and each crop is well fed. In fact, Haines, Sr., is firm in his opinion that it is impossible to raise a big crop without paying especial attention to feeding it. With this end in view, the 137-bushel crop of corn received 600 pounds of commercial plantfood per acre, while this year's wheat was fed with 300 pounds per acre of high grade fertilizer. No, the Haines boys aren't thinking of moving to town.



# COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

A. B. CUTTING, Editor.

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## CHRISTMAS, THE GRANDEST FESTIVAL OF ALL THE YEAR.

"Christmas comes but once a year," but for days and weeks before it comes the spirit of the occasion is in the air. It is here now. Anticipation and preparedness permeate the home atmosphere everywhere. Christmas is being looked forward to in this country with special joy this year, for we are at peace with the world and with ourselves. Would that "peace on earth, good will towards men," were world-wide!

In America, good will, good fellowship and kindly remembrance should and will be at the bottom of every deed and thought on the festive day and throughout the holiday season. Let gift-making be simple and earnest, rather than a contest in spending more money than the other fellow! Let the children enjoy the myth of Santa Claus in all its fullness of meaning—and stocking! Remember the old folks, for they never forget the Christmases of long ago, and are as children again when the Day each year returns. And, most important of all, consider the poor, for they are always with us and should be enriched with joy and gladness at least once a year—Christmas Day. By forgetting ourselves and doing for others—family, friends, and the needy—Christmas will be in effect, what it is said to be in theory, the grandest festival of all the year.

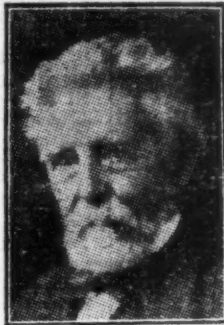
## START RIGHT WHEN ESTABLISHING FARMERS' ORGANIZATION.

The value of organization among farmers is being recognized more and more as the years go by. The question is: How should farmers organize to secure permanent and effective results? The answer must necessarily be that it depends partly upon the particular needs of a given community and partly upon the capacity which farmers have to establish and manage the work of a suitable organization. There should be a strong local feeling of the need of some improvement and that certain definite aims or purposes can be more fully realized with the aid of organized interest and activity than through individual effort alone. It is folly to expect that mere organization, as such, will achieve a given object, unless the farmers organize in the right way and equip their organization so that it will carry on its work efficiently.

Having decided that an associated effort is warranted by the needs of the community, a study should be made of the kind of organization that would be most helpful and the ways and means of making its work effective. While this calls for intelligent, enthusiastic, and self-sacrificing leadership, it is best that this be furnished locally. Organization may need outside advice, but they should not be promoted by outsiders. The farmers' advance-

Colman's Rural World was established in 1848 by Norman J. Colman, who later became the first United States Secretary of Agriculture. As a champion of advanced agriculture this journal has attracted nationwide support, and is today held in highest regard by thousands of intelligent and discriminating readers.

Colman's Rural World strives to bring the greatest good to the greatest number at all times. Each issue is replete with helpfulness and good cheer. It is read for profit and pleasure, and yields a satisfactory return to each individual subscriber. Our advertisers are rewarded with excellent results.



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must come as the result of his own efforts; his progress must develop from within rather than from without. The organization that is given him is of far less value to him than the one which he himself creates.

In the matter of securing advice it is generally wise to make applications to the state agricultural college or the proper government official. In asking for this advice a full statement of the local situation should be given—the territory to be included, number of farmers interested, class and amount of work to be undertaken, previous co-operative experience, and any other local features that will give a definite idea of the problems that must be met in outlining a plan of organization for the betterment of the community.

## "LOOK FOR YOUR MONEY WHERE YOU LOST IT."

Such was the counsel of a wise father to his son. The boy had failed in some project he had undertaken. Just what it was, we do not know. He might have lost a crop of wheat because of a hail-storm and was afraid to try wheat again. It may be that he lost a drove of hogs with cholera and declared that he would never again raise hogs. Possibly it was new to him and he was not on to the "how"

of doing it. Sometimes a person learns more when he fails than when he succeeds. It is the schooling of experience that counts.

A man may fail to make money on a farm. He may find it harder work than he had thought for. That is no indication that he should quit. He is only preparing to begin. Of all lines of business, farming is certainly the most flexible in this respect. Every man has within his own power the possibility of increasing or decreasing the profits, of making his work heavy or light, according to his managing ability.

The use of proper farm records will show up the why and the wherefor of a lot of the leaks. Plugging up the leaks is one good way of increasing profits. Put down what you do and where you did it, what you spent and where you spent it, what you received and from whence it came. Then at the end of the year look over your record and see how much you did and what you got for doing it. Quit guessing. A guess is dangerous if you rely upon it for dollars and cents.

It begins to appear now that if one wishes to grow a chicken profitably he must first grow a cow. The skim-milk hen is as great a factor of our economy as the skim-milk calf or pig.

## THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

There was a time when the farmer was considered a joke, and was called a "rustic" in literary language, and in popular language, a "hayseed." There was of course some cause for this. The farmer was really ignorant of many things which were matters of ordinary information to many city people. But the obnoxious terms are rapidly going out of use because the group to whom they may be applied is continually growing smaller.

Nowadays it is not difficult to find a farmer who is better informed on matters of public interest than is the average city man. The boundaries of his farm no longer constitute his horizon. He takes a very lively interest in the world about him. And really there is no excuse for the average farmer remaining longer a rustic or a hayseed. Modern postal service makes connection with the world at large easy. Modern printing business makes information on all subjects and the products of the best minds easily available.

The modern farmer can purchase such periodicals and books as will enable him to make his business a better success, and he can subscribe to papers and magazines which will keep him just as well informed on all matters of public interest as any city man. There is no reason why a man who follows agriculture as a business should not have just as much influence in state and national affairs as the city man, and there are some reasons why he should have more influence.

If there is any sort of warm bread that excels a hoeecake, we would like to be shown. Then why should we worry about the wheat problem?

The process by which cider has recently been condensed is now applied to the juices of some grapes; that is, freezing the water out of them. At the proper season these may be diluted back to their original strength with no flavor of heating about them, making a cup, like Cowper's "that cheers but not inebriates."

Vermont claims to have saved her maple sugar industry by co-operation. It is not definitely known what they co-operated on. It might have been on suppressing the shipping, directly to the sugar camp, of glucose and brown sugar by the barrel. For a while, Orleans sugar and hickory bark tea could give "pure Vermont" syrup any sort of handicap.

War is a matter of two elements—our own strength and the weakness of the enemy. Germs are everywhere and the reverse question comes in their strength and our own weakness. In this case, while there are some germs to be avoided, the main thing is to so fortify our systems that the germ can not cross the trenches. He is always "sniping."

## 40 Years Ago 20 Years Ago

In Colman's Rural World

(Issue of Dec. 4, 1875.)

Cass county (Mo.) has shipped \$50,000 worth of castor beans. Large crops have also been raised in Bates and St. Clair counties.

The farmers living near Longwood, Pettis county, Missouri, are losing their horses and cattle by some mysterious disease. Eight or ten of each have died in the last few days. The animals generally drop dead at night.

(Issue of Dec. 11, 1875.)

A man in Muscatine, Iowa, is so fond of squashes and pumpkins that he is drying 10 tons of the former and 30 tons of the latter.

A Mississippi paper says: "The loss of cotton this year, for want of picking, is estimated at \$5,000,000 in gold."

(Issue of Dec. 5, 1895.)

There are but 46 horses that ever trotted in 2:10 or better.

Sheep and apple orchards are the hope of New England brush lands.

Every year a great many hogs succumb to cholera, the disease being generally attributed very largely to a too generous supply of new corn for feed, but this year the losses have been unusually large. The disease appears to have been increased by the drouth.

(Issue of Dec. 12, 1895.)

Spain has only one horse to every 60 people. The gay gallants of that backwoods nation go mounted on donkeys. Some of our fellows go on bicycles, which is still worse.



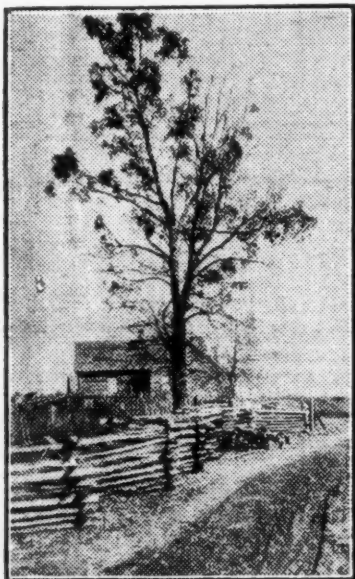
# The Mistletoe and Its Meaning for Christmas

CHRISTMAS without its mistletoe would be but a sorry festival indeed, and yet there are but few of those who avail themselves of its favors who give a thought to the romance which clings around its name. Most of us have a dim idea that the mistletoe boasts a connection with the ancient Druids—priests who wore long white beads and equally long white garments—but this is the extent of their knowledge. As a matter of fact, the mythology which connects the mistletoe with the classics and with the sagas of the northern peoples is far more picturesque than that which is purely Anglo-Saxon.

According to the Scandinavian legend, the mother of Balder the Beautiful betook herself after his birth to all the plants that grew on earth, and from them extracted a promise that they would never do him harm. Unfortunately she forgot the mistletoe, which grows not in the ground but on the trees, and in consequence the god of evil, Loake, fashioned himself an arrow of the mistletoe and with it shot at Balder, who fell to the ground dead. But the other gods who loved Balder restored him to life, and ever afterwards his mother cherished the plant, and ordained that it should be regarded as the emblem of love. When worshippers came to do her homage, a great bunch of mistletoe was suspended above her head, and it was thus adorned that homage was paid to her.

## "Under the Mistletoe."

The good old custom of hanging the mistletoe from the ceiling at the Christmas festivities is said to have its origin in the idea, that since the plant did not have its roots in the ground, no part of it should ever be permitted to touch the earth. Among the Saxons



Mistletoe growing on (and in) a hickory tree. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant and will eventually kill the tree. The photograph was taken before the leaves of the hickory were out in spring.

the fact that mistletoe was suspended from the roof of a dwelling intimated to the wayfarer that the hospitality or the house was at his disposal, and beneath its branches friend and stranger, vassal and lord, gathered together in comradeship and good cheer. The religious aspect of the mistletoe tradition, which had its origin in the Druidical rites, and the gathering of it by the Arch-Druid with his golden sickle, merged later into a purely social symbol, and the idea of simple hospitality developed into one of merry-making and a somewhat riotous entertainment. The kiss of the Scandinavian goddess expanded into the custom of a kiss given for every berry that grew on the bough! Small wonder that, in spite of the mistletoe having originally existed in the odor of sanctity, the church came to regard it as an entirely pagan symbol, and refused to allow it to participate with the holly and the evergreen in the Yuletide decorations!

There is an ancient belief that the mistletoe was the tree from which the Holy Cross was hewn, and that after this was made the plant withered, and ever afterwards became a mere parasitic growth, clinging for support to other and sturdier trees. Other stories, however, credit it with divine gifts in the healing of disease and the exorcism of evil spirits. Ram, the high priest of the Celts, received in a dream the intimation that by means of the plant he would be enabled to save his people from the plague which was decimating them. To celebrate their delivery he instituted the Feast of Noel (New Health), a mid-winter holiday which has come to be considered coincident with the New Year.

## Its Influence.

In many parts of the United Kingdom the silver berries and the gray-green leaves of the mistletoe are looked upon as anything but an emblem of good cheer. On the contrary, the plant is regarded with dread, as being the bringer of ill-luck and the sign of ill-omen. This superstition exists both in Devonshire and in Ireland, and, strange to say, in neither of these places does the plant flourish, owing, report has it, to the fact that both incurred the displeasure of the Druids, and were in consequence cursed in such a way that their soil became incapable of nourishing the sacred growth. The strange ethereal appearance of the little opaque berry is largely responsible for the mystic character it has enjoyed among the peoples of diverse nations from the earliest historical times.

The etymology of the word mistletoe is interesting, although, as usual, authorities attribute it to different origins, and no authenticated derivation has yet been agreed upon. According to some etymologists, the word comes from the Anglo-Saxon "mistle" (different) and "teinu" (a twig), implying that the characteristics of the plant are different from those of the tree on which it grows. Other authorities connect the word with the Latin "viscum," itself derived from "wiskus," or oneness. The latter theory would account for the mistletoe being placed in the loving cup in which the vows of betrothed people were pledged according to pagan rites.—E. C. M.

## PRUNING THE BLACKBERRY FOR MAXIMUM YIELDS.

The proper pruning for the blackberry is very simple as well as important. The amount of pruning required will be governed by the variety, soil and climate. The large growing sorts will naturally require more pruning than the more moderate growers, also berries grown on poor soil will need less heading back than those grown on very fertile soil. The ease of pruning depends on whether it is done at the proper time or not.

Where the soil is very fertile the canes will make growths of from 10 to 12 feet in height. Canes of this height are out of the question when it comes to picking the fruit. This difficulty can be overcome by proper summer pruning. The fields should be gone over as soon as the shoots are two or three feet in height and the tops pinched out. This will cause side branches to put out near the ground, producing stalky, self-supporting canes. If the side branches show a tendency to grow too tall, pinch out the bud. Never allow a cane to grow ten feet high, then cut back to three or four feet. By doing this, you will remove the larger part of the next year's crop.

The removal of the old canes at the correct time is very desirable. Very often they are allowed to remain until the winter pruning. However, this is a mistake, as they remove a large amount of plant food and moisture from the soil; and also are often diseased, offering a fertile source of infection for the new canes. Therefore, cut out the old canes as soon as the crop is picked, clean up the field and burn the trash.



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Western Canada produced in 1915 one-third as much wheat as all of the United States, or over 300,000,000 bushels.

Canada in proportion to population has a greater exportable surplus of wheat this year than any country in the world, and at present prices you can figure out the revenue for the producer. In Western Canada you will find good markets, splendid schools, exceptional social conditions, perfect climate, and other great attractions. There is no war tax on land and no conscription.

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Winter pruning should be done just before the sap starts, or after all danger of winter killing is past. It consists of thinning out the canes and slightly heading back the long side branches. The amount of wood that will have to be removed depends on the vigor of the plant. If the variety has a tendency to produce a large number of weak canes the clumps should be thinned out enough to ensure good marketable berries.

The length of time a blackberry plant will produce good fruit depends on its care. As a rule they will be profitable longer than any cane fruits. As soon as they begin to fail the plants should be removed and the soil used for something else for a few years. To kill out the patch mow off and burn the bushes as soon as the crop is picked. Plow deeply and go over the ground with a spring tooth harrow, removing as many of the roots as possible. Keep down the suckers by persistent cultivation, and it may require several years before they are entirely exterminated.

## GROWING CURRANTS AND GOOSE-BERRIES.

Currants and American gooseberries prefer moist, cool, well-drained soils, those with some clay preferable. It is better to grow them in the proximity of shade. They do not like hot soils, and when planted on hot sand or silt, do not thrive, as a rule.

They are very easily propagated. Hardwood cuttings eight or 10 inches long are taken in the fall, buried in moist sand, and planted out in the spring. They can be propagated by mound layering or by root cuttings.

The tillage should be the same as for other small fruits, but should be very thorough, yet shallow, as the roots of these berries tend to come to the surface.

Both these plants are rank feeders and respond to moderate amounts of well-rotted manure, or wood ashes. The latter is especially desirable for these plants. Heavy applications of coarse, loose, strawy manure should be avoided as it tends to make the ground too dry and warm for these fruits.

In this country pruning to the bush form is recommended. The gooseberry bears fruit on the two, three, and four year old wood and this growth should not be cut. The currant bears most of its fruit on the second and third year old wood. Cut out all canes that droop toward the ground. Cut out all weak canes, and reduce the plant to the number of canes that will grow in a vigorous condition. Whenever the canes tend to get gnarly, old, or weak, remove them. The plantation should be renewed in 6 to 10 years. While it will fruit longer, it will not pay as the fruit tends to get small.

The plants can be set at varying distances, according to size: 5x5, 4x4, or in rows six feet apart and the plants three feet apart in the row. They can be harvested when desired, and for canning should be harvested green, and for jam, very ripe.

Poultry furnishes an average income of \$122 per farm in Missouri.

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## ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

Arbor vitae makes a splendid ornamental hedge. It may be shaped into any desired form by pruning.

Parasnips and salsify may be left in the ground over winter. These root crops keep perfectly without storage.

Save seed from the fall crop of Irish potatoes for next year's planting, selecting smooth potatoes of uniformly large size, though not the largest. Seed potatoes are usually expensive at planting time.



## IN THE ORCHARD AND THE GARDEN

### GARDEN WORK FOR DECEMBER.

Be sure that there is a good covering of earth and straw over all buried root crops and trenched celery. The rhubarb and asparagus plots should be covered with a thick mulch of manure at this season as a means of preventing excessive freezing and hence delayed growth in the spring. As much as possible of this mulch material should be worked into the ground early in the spring.

Garden soil which has not been fall plowed should be supplied with a liberal application of manure during the winter season. Fifteen to 20 tons of manure per acre is none too much to apply to garden land.

If hotbeds are in use care must be taken to conserve their heat and to protect the crops from injury during the cold nights. Ventilate during bright weather, but do not permit cold draughts of air to strike the plants. Cover the sash with boards, or mats at night during freezing weather.

Take up roots of rhubarb desired for forcing and store away in an open shed to freeze, or if the cold frames are to be used to force, place the roots in these as soon as taken from the field. Pack the roots as closely as possible and fill in about them with loamy soil and then water thoroughly. The crowns should be covered with an inch or two of soil, but no further protection need be given until the season of forcing arrives, which may begin in February or March.

### GROW CHRISTMAS TREES ON WASTE LAND.

Is the traditional and time honored custom of utilizing evergreen trees at Christmas time a menace to the movement for forest preservation? The press throughout the country frequently gives affirmative expression to the question, but it is based on sentiment and not founded on facts.

It is estimated in round numbers that not over 5,000,000 Christmas trees are used annually, (one for every fourth family), a number utterly insignificant and incomparable with the sources of timber waste, such as fires, grazing and careless logging, nor is the demand comparable with the consumption for other purposes for which timber is used.

Instead of discouraging the custom, it should be considered consistent and proper that it be maintained in support of the principle that trees are for use and there is no other use to which they could be put which would contribute so much to the joy of man as their use by the children on the greatest holiday of all the year.

These 5,000,000 trees can be produced on 1,800 acres of land, and 18,000

acres of land would produce a constant supply of Christmas trees for the entire population of the United States.

Spruce makes the best Christmas tree. Norway spruce is hardy and is also a rapid grower. There is good profit and a quick return in growing it for Christmas trees. Nearly 3,000 trees can be planted on one acre, and first returns may be secured in four years after planting if the plantation be properly handled. A thinning can be made each year as the trees become large enough for market, or a part of the plantation may be cut off each year and replanted, thus insuring a constant supply.

The Norway spruce will thrive on moderately fertile soil and upon hill-sides impossible for general tillage. Like any crop, they grow faster when cultivated, but they may be profitably grown where such treatment is not always possible, by simply keeping the weeds and shrubs from overtopping them or better still by mulching with straw or similar material.

Any waste place about the farm or



Bringing in the Christmas Tree.

even vacant city lots can be profitably devoted to Christmas tree growing. Under cultivation and on moderately fertile soil, a two-year-old transplanted spruce should grow to be at least five feet in height in four years, and some will do better.

There is little doubt but that the time will come when the Christmas tree business will become a recognized industry in this country, as it is in Germany, where the per capita consumption of Christmas trees is the greatest, and that as much attention will be given to it as will be given to the growing of crops of timber for other uses. This time may not be far off, for it is already understood that only through the practice of forestry, which means both the conservation of the timber which remains and carefully planned systems of reforestation, will it be possible to supply the country with its forty billion feet of lumber needed each year, as well as the few million little trees needed at Christmas time.

### CLIMBING ROSES.

In the latitude of Philadelphia or St. Louis and farther south climbing roses usually need no protection during the winter unless they are a particularly tender variety. Farther north these roses need protection similar to that given to the tea and hybrid tea roses.

Where it is possible to do so, remove climbing roses from their supports, and cover the branches with a little dirt. A little fall trimming might be desirable to lessen the space occupied by the branches on the ground. Such side branches as are not to be needed for next season's blooming may be cut off. Such cutting off and shortening of the ends as would otherwise be done in the spring, may be done in the fall before covering, merely for convenience.

Stone and gravel roads may be needed if the drag cannot do the work.



## Weavers of Speech

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## HORSE BREEDING AND RAISING

### NANCY HANKS AND HER PLACE IN TROTTING HISTORY.

Nancy Hanks, the famous trotter whose death was announced recently, was a bay mare foaled in 1886, sired by Happy Medium 400; dam, Nancy Lee, by Dictator 113, out of Sophia, by Edwin Forrest 49. She started seven times as a three-year-old; lost one heat during the season to Bonnie Wilmore, 2:14½.

Most of her races were stakes, in Kentucky. She had a walkover in one stake; won the Kentucky futurity, best time 2:25¾. As a four-year-old she started six times, five times in Kentucky and once at Cincinnati, and took a record of 2:14½ in August at Lexington. Again as a four-year-old, Bonnie Wilmore was the only horse she met that could make her trot.

As a five-year-old she started nine times, most of them against time, although she defeated Belle Hamlin in a special, and Allerton and Margaret S. in a regular purse race. In her six-year-old form she started 13 times and at Terre Haute, Ind., cut her record to 2:04. She was never regularly raced, probably for the reason that from a three-year-old up she out-classed all other colts and fillies of her age.

To satisfy a coterie of old grandmothers who wanted more stamina in our trotters, she was bred to Imp. Meddler and produced a filly Princess of Monaco, dam of Nancy Bingen, 2:23½, by Bingen and Vaniza (3) 2:29½, by Peter the Great. Naron by Arion, dam Nancy Hanks, has produced Albia, 2:10¾, by Bingen; Darion, 2:29½, by The Director General, and Vice Commodore, 2:11, by Bingen.

Nancy Hanks herself has produced, to Arion, Lord Roberts, 2:07¾, sire of 28 trotters and six pacers at the close of 1914; to Bingen, Admiral Dewey, 2:04¾, sire, at the same time, of 32 trotters and 10 pacers.

She was in a class by herself as a trotter, and has been successful as a brood mare. That she will breed on through both sons and daughters is a foregone conclusion. Some of her daughters will probably be more successful than she has been herself—the history of all our successful brood mares.

Back in 1845 the Charles Kent mare was bred to Webber's Tom Thumb and produced Belle, dam of Green's Bashaw, a wonderful sire, opportunities considered. In 1858 and 1859, Jenny Lind, by Bellefounder, to Pilot Jr. 12, produced the two great sisters, Dixie, 2:30, and Tackey, 2:26, when everything is considered the greatest of all the Pilot Jr. mares. Tackey was foaled before the civil war. Miss Russell after the war. Miss Russell was put to breeding at three, Tackey at 13. Today Peter the Great, the grandson of old Tackey, has sired more 2:10 trotters than any three stallions that have ever lived, among them a brother, Peter Volo, holds the world's trotting record for two three and four-year-olds; his sister, Volga, holds the world's two-year-old race record, equalling the world's two-year-old filly record.

It will be many years before we can intelligently place Nancy Hanks in her relative position as a speed transmitter. She was the first record trotter to produce speed with regularity.

Lou Dillon, that holds the record at the present time, is producing speed with equal regularity and with much better opportunities. Lou Billings (3) 2:08¾, is her first in the 2:10 list for her dam and the second for her sire. She will probably be bred regularly to The Harvester, 2:01, the present holder of the stallion record, the first time a record sire and dam have been mated. The Harvester at nine years of age has four in the list, three of them two-year-olds.

It may be that no record holder will

ever assume the same place in the eyes of the American people that Nancy Hanks held at one time, yet she will not be alone in upholding the fact that a record holder may take her place among the greatest of speed producing matrons.

Mr. Billings always aims high, and the daughter of Lou Dillon, named after himself, may yet prove to be one of the greatest speed matrons ever foaled. Would Mr. Billings have selected her to show to Russia, if he had not had in view a career commensurate with her breeding.

Goldsmith Maid produced without opportunity. Maud S. and Alex left us nothing. The way Nancy Hanks blazed is being kept open by Lou Dillon, whose breeding and disposition entitle her to a higher place as a matron than any mare that has yet worn the crown.—L. E. Clement, Pierce City, Mo.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PRODUCE HORSES AND MULES.

About half a million horses and mules have been sent to Europe because of the war, according to Prof. E. A. Trowbridge of the Missouri College of Agriculture. Although the number sounds large, it really includes less than 2 per cent of the 28,000,000 horses and mules on hand in the United States, January 1, 1915, and a still lower percentage when we remember the 1915 colts must be added to this number.

The 400,000 horses bought for export for use in the war are among the lighter animals ranging from 1,000 to

1,500 pounds in weight. Although many of them are of mixed breeding, they are good useful horses, but do not sell for particularly high prices, and there is an opportunity for the raiser to produce others of much better type to replace those that have been sold. The increased cost of land, labor, and other things used in horse-raising has gradually widened the gap between the price of good horses and mules, and those of inferior animals, until now only the superior animals can be produced profitably.

About 80 per cent of the horses and mules in the country are now owned and used on farms. The automobile, auto truck, and farm tractor all help to replace some of these animals, but any great changes in this direction will come about gradually and production will be governed largely by demand. In view of these constantly changing conditions, however, the business of horse-production offers unusual opportunities to the man who succeeds in meeting market demands successfully. Horses of the draft or high-class saddle type or mules of good size and quality and capable of doing lots of hard work are likely to prove most profitable.

Missouri grew 225,000,000 more bushels of corn on the same acreage during the years 1912, 1913 and 1914 than did Kansas. Half the total number of counties in Missouri grow more corn than is grown in half the total number of states in the Union. One farmer in Missouri has grown more corn than was grown at that time in nine different states in the Union.

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## CREAM OF THE DAIRY NEWS

### BACTERIA IN THE DAIRY—NATURE AND CONTROL.

Bacteria, the mysterious, invisible forms of life, which exist all around us, play a very important part in the dairy. There are germs where action is desirable—necessary—for the production of typical characteristics in butter and cheese, others there are which do not appear to have either a beneficial or a harmful effect, and there are many which cause much trouble. There is constant warfare between the first mentioned and the latter varieties, in just the same way as the white corpuscles in the animal blood-stream wage war against the germs which gain an entry into the body. And in just the same way the weakest goes under, and "diseases" in milk and its products, otherwise bad flavors, taints, decomposition, follow when the harmful germs prove the strongest.

#### Causes and Effects.

It is only within very recent years that the study of bacteriology has come so much to the front, and as more and more is constantly being discovered, the great importance of the subject is becoming widely known and understood. It is only by understanding all about the causes of things that we can hope in any way to control the effect. By studying the habit and peculiarities of bacteria we can influence their growth and development in whatever way will be most satisfactory to ourselves. For instance when cream is intended for butter-making we know, and have known for a long time, that very much better flavored butter is obtained when the cream is first nicely "ripened."

It has been discovered within recent years that the process known as "ripening" is due to the influence of a certain kind of bacteria. It has also been discovered that these germs are to be found in all dairies, and places where milk is and has been kept. They are in the air, utensils, etc., and they grow best in nice clean surroundings, where the temperature is moderate. They do not like extremes either of heat or cold, but when conditions are made favorable for them they will grow very rapidly, and soon bring about the desired change in the cream.

Now, when it is known what suits these germs the best, it is quite easy to arrange things so that their growth can go on unchecked. If they are given a proper chance they will very soon overcome any undesirable germs which may have got into the cream. But if the cream has been allowed to become badly contaminated with the undesirable germs, before the others have had their chance, then the malignant ones will prove the strongest, and out the "ripening" ones, and some bad flavor or other fault will spoil the butter that is made from the cream.

#### Bacteria in Cheese-Making.

It is bacterial contamination which causes a lot of the troubles in cheese-making and it is therefore of the utmost importance that every effort be made to keep the milk free as possible from all harmful germs. Bacterial taints may cause a material loss, not only by spoiling one or two days' make when the milk is received into the dairy in a contaminated condition, but they get into the air and utensils, and are liable to get into the fresh supplies of milk at any time, and so carry on the taint from day to day.

For all practical purposes, the milk of a healthy cow may be considered quite sterile (that is, entirely free from germs). As soon as it leaves the udder it is liable to contamination by bacteria, and it depends entirely upon the conditions under which it is drawn and treated subsequently what sort and how many bacteria get into it. There are bacteria everywhere—in the air, in water, in the ground—so it is impossible to prevent them getting in-

to milk once it has left the cow's udder. But we can influence both the number and the kind if we go about it in the right way, and the right way is to know the habits and conditions of growth of the various kinds of germs, and then encourage the ones required by making conditions favorable for them, and preventing the growth of the others by making life difficult for them.

#### Germs Multiply Rapidly.

It must be remembered in the first place that bacteria are so minute that it requires a powerful microscope to see them at all, and then they look about the size of a small pin prick. The reason these minute forms of life can bring about such changes and do so much harm is because of their rapid reproduction. When conditions are favorable, some kinds are able to reproduce at the rate of one becoming two every half hour, and as they feed on the chemical constituents of milk and other substances, it is quite easy to understand how soon they bring about a change in the substance they are feeding upon.

Warm new milk forms an excellent medium for the growth and reproduction of a large number of varieties of germs. Chemically milk is a very complex substance, and there are in its composition all the elements necessary for the support of animal life.

Bacteria are very near the border line between animal and vegetable, but they can obtain from milk all that is necessary to support their life. They do not feed on one particular constituent, and remove that entirely from the milk, but they take out one or two elements, such as carbon and nitrogen, and therefore alter the nature of that constituent. The lactic acid germs, which bring about "ripening," take what they require from the sugar in the milk, and after they have taken out their food the sugar has been converted into lactic acid.

#### To Prevent Contamination.

Most of the germs which have a harmful influence on dairy produce make a sort of resting place amongst dirt, and wherever there are any accumulations of filth there will be hordes of germs. Every time the accumulation is moved by animals or workers stirring about there will be numbers of bacteria thrown into the air, and then they settle slowly, following the law of gravitation, when not drifted hither and thither by draughts and currents of air. It follows as a natural sequence that when cow sheds are allowed to become dumping grounds for all sorts of filth and rubbish, milk which is drawn from the cows in such surroundings will become badly contaminated and give all sorts of troubles later in the dairy.

Perfect cleanliness, fresh air, and light are the best means of preventing contamination, and discouraging the growth of harmful germs. The more useful ones are then given a chance, and will perform their duty and prevent undesirable changes taking place.—H. Mortimer, Illinois.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM PENNSYLVANIA REGARDING OLEOMARGARINE.

The Pennsylvania law prohibits the coloring of oleomargarine, and how the law works out is briefly stated by Hon. James Foust, dairy and food commissioner of the state, in which he says:

"The oleomargarine sold in Pennsylvania now is practically white, and everyone who sells the product, sells it for oleomargarine and at oleomargarine prices. All packages are marked, the places of business are placarded, and the consuming public know just what they are getting.

"The practice which was conducted years ago by some unscrupulous dealers with wagons claiming to be farmers and selling dairy butter, is a thing of the past.

"The product is purer and more wholesome than it was when all sorts of schemes were devised to impart to it color or a tint by adding cottonseed oil and other oils, which depreciated its flavor and quality. This manipulation was only carried on by some manufacturers and was for the purpose of escaping the 10-cent tax on colored goods.

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ble in Pennsylvania now, and the consuming public is better satisfied with the flavor and quality of the product.

"I desire to further add that we charge \$100 a year for the privilege of selling oleomargarine at retail, and it is sold just as cheap in Pennsylvania as it is in any state in the Union, notwithstanding the license fee paid; and the product is better than it is in states that permit the goods to be sold having a shade of yellow or that are tinted, for the reason that the yellow color is imparted to the product by the addition of cottonseed oil or other oils, which depreciates its quality and almost destroys its flavor.

The proper way to strain milk is to pour it through three thicknesses of white cheese cloth, which should be washed, scalded and sunned after each use. Strain immediately after milking.

Investigations made by the United States Department of Agriculture indicate that the average cost of raising a heifer on a dairy farm in the northern and eastern sections is about \$61 at the end of her second year; this includes an allowance of \$7.31 for labor. The heifer is given a credit of \$8 for the manure she produces. Thus it appears that the dairy farmer in the sections mentioned cannot afford to raise a heifer that is not worth more than \$60 when two years old.

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### MISSOURI FARMERS' WEEK— POULTRY PROGRAM.

The big farmers' convention at the Missouri University, Columbia, takes place on January 3-7. At this meeting each department of the college of agriculture offers a complete course of study.

Farmers' Week at Missouri is of national reputation. In 1915 over 3,000 farmers enrolled. For the coming event the prospects point to a greater attendance. No pains will be spared to give the farmer what he desires. The poultry man will come in for his share of attention, as the following program shows:

Tuesday, Jan. 4.—A New Type of Poultry House for the Farm, Prof. H. L. Kempster; Intestinal Parasites of Poultry and Their Treatment, A. J. Durant; Incubation and Brooding of Young Chicks, E. H. Rucker; The Seasonal Distribution and Cost of Egg Production, Prof. H. L. Kempster.

Wednesday, Jan. 5.—The Result of a Year's Experience with Roup, A. J. Durant; The External Parasites of Poultry, T. J. Talbot; Farm Egg Laying Contests, Prof. H. L. Kempster; The Possibilities of Improved Poultry Keeping Through the Boys' and Girls' Poultry Club, R. H. Emberson.

Thursday, Jan. 6.—Feeding for Egg Production, Prof. A. G. Phillips; The Farmer and Selling Eggs on a Graded Basis, Prof. W. A. Lippincott; The Judging of Fowls, E. C. Branch; Farm Poultry Management, Prof. A. G. Phillips.

Friday, Jan. 7.—The Value of Egg-Laying Contests, T. E. Quisenberry; The Ups and Downs of Egg Marketing, R. C. Lawry; The Opportunities for Specialty and Farm Poultry, Prof. W. A. Lippincott; Modern Methods of Poultry Culture, (illustrated by motion pictures).

Each day demonstrations will be given in the following: Judging fowls, judging and candling eggs, killing and dressing poultry, caponizing and the treatment of fowls for lice.

These men are of national reputation, are thoroughly acquainted with their particular fields and the poultry keeper will receive a great deal of valuable instruction from listening to and associating with them.

### ILLINOIS POULTRY SHOW.

The Illinois State Poultry Show will be held at DeKalb, Ill., January 2-8, 1916. Judges will be Heyl, Halbach, Ott, Klein, Shaw, Warnock and Rountree. Entries will close December 21, 1915. Large cash specials offered on all breeds. Poultry institute Tuesday

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and Wednesday with Prof. A. G. Phillips and E. W. Good as the lecturers. Catalogs can be had by addressing Theo. S. McCoy, Secy., Golconda, Ill.

### INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS PROFITABLE—HEAVY LAYERS.

Most of the large poultry plants are specializing in egg farming and experiments are being made continually to ascertain the most profitable varieties of poultry to keep for egg production. The results of these experiments have shown the Indian Runner ducks to be among the heaviest of all layers, large flocks averaging over 180 eggs a bird a year, and in some instances even reaching an average of 200 eggs or more a bird. The best individual layers do not as a rule go much over the 200 egg mark, but there are so few poor layers that the average for a flock is seldom much lower than the records of the best layers in the flock.

The eggs laid by Indian Runner ducks are very little smaller than those laid by the Pekin ducks. They average about 20 pounds to 120 eggs, so a duck weighing four or four and a half pounds and laying 180 eggs in a year lays about seven times her weight in eggs. Cases are known where Indian Runner ducks have laid their weight in eggs in one month.

While it is a point in their favor that they are great egg producers, their greatest advantage lies in the fact that they produce most of their eggs during the winter months, which is the time when eggs are scarce and prices high. The importance of this is evident when one considers the advantage the poultryman who is assured of a steady supply of eggs throughout the winter has over the poultryman who cannot be certain of his supply until spring comes along and prices go down. The Indian Runner never fails to produce winter eggs if properly handled.

#### Best Winter Layers.

The Indian Runner usually commences to lay when about five months old and lays off only during part of August and September, at which time the moult occurs. The heaviest laying is done from October to January and continues until the end of July.

The eggs laid by Indian Runners are larger than hen's eggs and their equal in flavor. They now are bringing the highest prices in our eastern markets and are growing rapidly in favor. Everything points to an increased demand for duck's eggs and the future of the fowl seems assured.

Indian Runners have three varieties, white, brown and white and fawn and white. They are plump and closely feathered and are very hardy and vigorous. They average about four and one-half pounds in weight.

The profit that can be made from Indian Runners which are kept for egg production is great, especially when the question of expense of maintaining them is taken into consideration, for they exist largely on green stuff and when allowed their freedom during the warm months will almost feed themselves. The eggs usually are laid during the night or early morning, so the birds may be kept shut up until the middle of the morning and then turned loose. In this way all the eggs will be laid in the houses and none lost.

### DUST BATHS.

Laying hens must have their morning dust bath if they are to lay the maximum number of eggs through the winter. It is a necessary luxury for them. By its use they are enabled to rid themselves of mites and to remove all scales and dirt from the skin.

Lice and mites do their greatest injury to the fowls at night while on the roost. Instinctively they look for a place to dust in the morning. Do not force your hens to dust in the dropping or feed litter. During the summer they will usually find their own dusting place such as the road or in the shade of trees and shrubbery, but in the winter it must be provided for them. Nail an old grocery box in one corner of the house. Elevate it above the floor so that it will not get filled with straw or litter and put in six or eight inches of dusting material. During moderate weather their box may be placed out in the pen.

To be effective the dusting material must be very light and dry and fine enough to fill the breathing pores of the mites and lice. The finer the better.

A good dusting material is composed of equal parts of fine sand, road dust and sifted coal ashes. Cupful of kerosene and a handful of sulphur thoroughly mixed with the dust will make the dust bath still more effective. —C. S. Anderson, Colorado Agricultural College.

### POULTRY GREEN FOOD.

Plenty of green food for the poultry, all they will eat, is an important item in poultry rations during the winter egg-laying season as well as at other times of the year. This can be supplied by growing kale and other win-

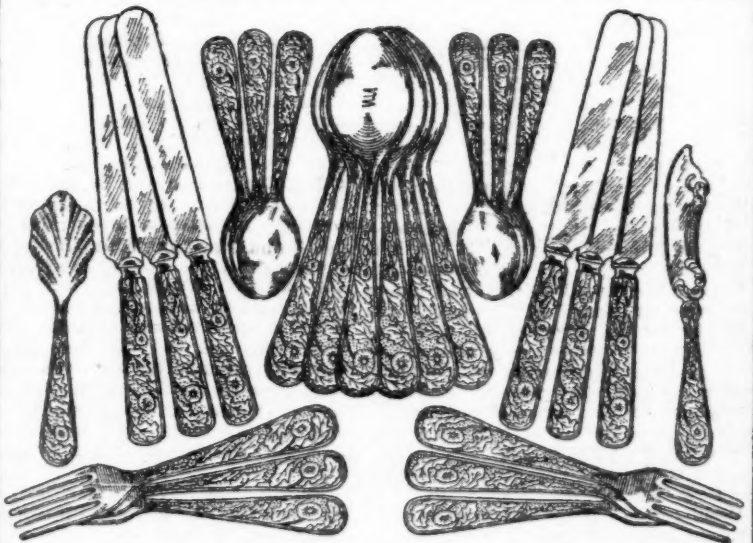
ter greens outside the pen and giving the birds daily quantities, or by sowing a fall pasture of vetch, rape, mustard, rye, wheat, oats, or other crop that will make consistent winter growth. In the latter case the fowls will have to be kept off the sowed area until the young plants get well established, when they will afford the hens all they need with no trouble to the owner. Provided, in either way the greens will have a beneficial effect upon the health of the flock as well as exert a valuable influence on the yield and quality of the eggs.

Always remember that the ducks and ducklings must have their drinking water in a dish deep enough so that they can get their heads into it up to their eyes and must have plenty of water at feeding time.

## FREE SILVERWARE

We have just received a fresh shipment of these beautiful 26-piece Electric Silver Sets from the factory. They won't last long. Send for your set today. We refund your money if you are not satisfied.

## 26-Piece Electric Silver Set



### We Want You to Have a Set of This Silverware

We have in the past made many fine premium offers of silverware to readers of Colman's Rural World, but this is the first time we have ever been able to offer a complete electric silver set on such a liberal offer. And please don't think because we are giving away this splendid set on such liberal terms that it is the ordinary cheap silverware which is plated on a brass base and consequently changes color and has that "brassy" look just as soon as the plating wears off. This set which we offer you here is plated on a white metal base, therefore each and every piece is the same color all the way through and will wear for years. As shown in the above illustration there are 26 pieces in this set—6 Knives, 6 Forks, 6 Teaspoons, 6 Tablespoons, Sugar Shell and Butter Knife. Each piece is full regulation size for family use, the handles are handsomely embossed and decorated with the beautiful Daisy design which is now so popular and the blades of the knives and bowls of the teaspoons and tablespoons are perfectly plain and bright polished.

It is only because we buy this set in large quantities direct from the factory that we are able to secure it at a price that enables us to make the remarkable offer below. It is by far the greatest value we have ever offered. We will send this beautiful 26-Piece Electric Silver Set exactly as illustrated and described to any address upon the terms of the following special offer.

We have sent hundreds of these 26-Piece Electric Silver Sets to our readers, and in every case the subscriber has been delighted beyond measure. We are so sure that this 26-Piece Electric Silver Set will please and satisfy you that we make this offer, and if you are dissatisfied after you get the 26-Piece Electric Silver Set, we will refund your money, or send you another set. You know we couldn't make such an offer unless this 26-Piece is exactly as we represent it.

### How To Get This 26-Piece Silver Set Free

Send us a three years' new or renewal subscription to Colman's Rural World at our special price of \$1.00 and 25 cents extra to help pay postage and packing charges on the 26-Piece Electric Silver Set—total \$1.25, and the complete 26-Piece Silver Set will be sent you by return mail—all charges paid. If you cannot get a new subscription to Colman's Rural World just send us \$1.25 and we will add a three years' subscription to your own subscription to Colman's Rural World. This offer may not appear again. Remember, for \$1.25 you get Colman's Rural World one year, and in addition we send you the 26-Piece Electric Silver Set—all charges prepaid. Sign the coupon below today before this offer is withdrawn.

### Sign This Coupon Today

Colman's Rural World,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Enclosed find \$1.25 to pay for a three years' subscription to Colman's Rural World. It is understood that you are to send me the 26-Piece Electric Silver Set—all charges to be prepaid. If I find the 26-Piece Electric Silver Set is not better than you claim, I will return it to you, and you are to send me back my money.

Name .....  
P. O. .... State ..... R. F. D. ....



# THE HOME CIRCLE

## AND THE KITCHEN

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Oh, I peeped just now at the Christmas tree,  
And whatever do you think?  
A little black monkey was dancing a jig;  
A little white bunny was eating a fig;  
And a fierce looking steed, in a two-wheeled gig,  
Was drooping his head to drink.

On a square of red carpet, close beside,  
Two armies stood ready for battle.  
There were candles and candies, nuts and toys,  
With everything else for both girls and boys,  
To help 'em be still, or to make a noise;  
And for baby, a great red rattle!

Hurrah for gay Christmas! Hurrah!  
Hurrah!

And for Santa, the dear old fellow!  
Three more for mama, and then three for pa;

And then three for 'em both, together!  
Hurrah! hurrah! and a hipp, hip, hurrah!

Oh, the lights they are soft and mel-  
low!

New Hampshire L. D. STEARNS.

### TO MAKE CHRISTMAS A HAPPY DAY IN THE HOME.

To the Home Circle:—Christmas comes but once a year, and should mean a time of good cheer to every one, especially to the children. Some parents consider it a sin to teach the little ones to believe in Santa Claus; but where is the wrong? It's the good spirit of giving that counts. Let it be called "Kriskingle," "Santa Claus," or what you please!

The delusion is one of the sweetest recollections of my own childhood, and nothing gives me more pleasure than to foster and strengthen the belief in my own children. To make the delusion more real at our home we have someone to act as Santa. He is always a jolly fellow and his pack may not be filled with expensive gifts, but he comes around just the same. Home made toys predominate.

For the boys, there are balls, mitts, hats, mufflers, and sleds, painted a bright red, with yellow stripes. For the girls, there are work boxes covered with pine cones, gilded, varnished and all lined with silkolene, and furnished with needles, thimble, a small blunt pair of scissors and a roll of assorted remnants for quilt pieces and doll dresses. There are home-made dolls to go around, cradles, bureaus, bedsteads, etc., made of thin boards, pasteboard, etc. Anyone with a little ingenuity and patience can soon fashion a number of desirable articles from the odds and ends around the house.

For the older ones, cushions, aprons, collars, handkerchiefs, ties, etc., can be cheaply made if the material is purchased in time. Crocheted ties, collars, etc., are always acceptable. The young miss will appreciate a pretty handbag crocheted and lined with silkolene to match the color of her best frock.

Popcorn balls, hickory nuts, apples, home-made taffy, and iced muffins are always acceptable. Pasteboard boxes can be had from the merchant for the asking. Lined and covered they make dainty receptacles for the gifts. The chief thing is to begin in time.

Make Christmas for the old and young a day of happiness. Grandma with her palsied hands and snow-white hair will be just as happy over some little token from Santa as the three-year-old child toddling about her chair.  
—Mrs. D. B. Phillips, Tennessee.

### TO CARVE TURKEY OR CHICKEN.

Set the turkey or chicken on the platter with the drumsticks to the right of the carver. Insert the carving-fork firmly at highest point of the breast bone. First cut off the leg and second joint on the side farthest from you, making a circular cut around the

The Home Circle is a meeting place for friendly gatherings of the Rural World family. All of its members are invited to meet here in correspondence and good fellowship. Send lots of letters and get really acquainted.

The Kitchen is a factor in the Home Circle that no one can do without. Help to make it helpful, by sending for publication suggestions on how to make and do the things that are made and done in the kitchen. Tell others your ideas and experiences.

joint, cut off the wing on the same side and in the same way, then remove the leg and second joint and the wing on the other side in the same way. Then, without removing the fork, cut thin slices lengthwise the breast, first upon one side and then upon the other. Remove the fork, and separate the second joints from the drumsticks, cutting through at the joint. Serve light and dark meat, with a little dressing, on each plate.

### SOME RECIPES FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Roast Turkey.—Select a fat, young turkey. Stuff with a dressing made of a small stale loaf of bread; crumble very fine, rub in it one quarter of a pound of butter, season well with pepper, salt and sweet minced herbs; put in no water, excepting enough to moisten the crumbs; add a few nice oysters. Stuff the turkey until well filled. Rub the bird over with sweet lard; it is then ready for the oven. Put a little water in the pan to prevent burning, and baste frequently with the gravy while cooking. A large turkey will require two and a half hours.

Potato Sticks.—Cut the potatoes into thin slices or small sticks, wash and drain them on a cloth, then melt an ounce of butter and pour it over them. Put the potatoes in a stew pan large enough to allow them to lie clear of one another. Toss them about every two or three minutes, till they are brightly browned. Serve immediately.

Cream of Celery Soup.—Take one head of celery and one onion, cut small, and stew soft in a pint of water; mash in the water and strain. Boil one and a half pints of milk with a large tablespoonful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of flour rubbed together, salt and pepper, and then add the strained celery. A cup of whipped cream improves it, if added the last thing.

Stewed Parsnips.—Mash, scrape and slice the parsnips about half an inch thick. Have a skillet prepared with a half pint of hot water, and a tablespoonful of butter. Add the parsnips, season with salt and pepper, cover closely and stew until the water has boiled away, stirring often to prevent burning. When done, the parsnips will be a creamy, light brown color.

Cranberry Shortcake.—One small quart of flour, with two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, and one of baking soda sifted in it, a pinch of salt and one large cup of flour; mix as for biscuit and bake in two square pans in a quick oven till brown. Spread butter on cakes before putting in oven. While still warm, spread cold stewed cranberries between and on top of cakes. Cover all with whipped cream. This is delicious.

Lyonnais Potatoes.—Boil potatoes and allow them to get cold. To one-half pound of sliced potato add two ounces of onion, a heaping teaspoon of chopped parsley and butter, the size of an egg. Put the butter in a saucepan. When hot throw in the onion, minced, and fry to a light color; add the potatoes, stir until hot and light brown; then mix the parsley and serve hot.

Smothered Chicken.—Prepare the chicken as you would for boiling it whole and place with a little water in a dripping pan after seasoning it with butter, pepper and salt. Put thin slices of stewed preserved tomato over it, dredge with flour, cover very closely to keep in the steam and place in the oven to cook until tender. When done, remove the cover to let it brown nicely. Make a gravy from drippings to serve with them.

Christmas Fruit Cake.—Three eggs, one and a half cups of sugar, one cup of molasses, two-thirds of a cup of shortening, pinch of salt, two-thirds cup of milk, with one teaspoonful of saleratus, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, dissolved, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, allspice, one teaspoonful of cloves, one cup of raisins, a few drops of extract of lemon; stir in with two and a half cups of flour, until thick enough.

Marshmallow Frappe.—Take one-fourth pound of marshmallows, cut in small pieces, add one-half pint of cream, whipped, then add one-fourth pound of chopped walnuts. Mix well together and sweeten to taste. Flavor with port wine. Set away for five hours and then serve.

Steamer Fruit Pudding.—Dissolve in one and a half cups of milk, one teaspoonful of soda. Beat one egg light and add to the milk; put into it a pinch of salt, and one heaping teaspoonful of cream of tartar, sifted with enough flour to make a not too stiff batter. Grease five cups, into which put a layer of the batter, then a layer of apples, pears, and any preserved fruit or berries you desire. Cut fruit fine and fill cups two-thirds full; steam one hour and serve with the following sauce:

Place in saucepan a piece of butter, the size of an egg and let it melt, then add one tablespoonful of sifted flour, a pinch of salt, one and a half cups of boiling water. Let this boil up once, then add one cup of sugar, and flavor with lemon or vanilla.—Helen A. Lyman, Massachusetts.

### GENUINE ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING

Ingredients.—One pound of seeded raisins; one pound of currants, half pound of chopped citron peel, one pound chopped suet, six eggs, one cupful of breadcrumbs, two cupfuls of flour, two cupfuls of milk, two tablespoonfuls of salt, one pound of brown sugar, one teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon, two teaspoonfuls of powdered allspice, half teaspoonful of powdered cloves.

Thoroughly clean and dry the raisins and currants, add to them the citron peel, suet, flour, breadcrumbs, sugar, salt, spices and milk, and the eggs well beaten. Mix three days before using. Scald a pudding-cloth and dredge it with flour. Put in the pudding mixture and tie it securely, allowing no swelling room, as the ingredients swell during the three days they are mixed. Into a large kettle of boiling water that will completely cover the pudding put the bag and boil steadily for five hours, replenishing the water as it boils down. When done drain the bag in a colander, then turn out the pudding on to a hot dish. Place a sprig of holly in the center

and serve with a sweet sauce flavored with lemon or vanilla extract.

### WRITING FOR SERVICE—STORY OF AN AUTOMOBILE.

Dear Home Circle:—I could but smile when I read the statement of one of the members of the home page who said she had dreaded to write for fear she would be required to write something useful. Then the question arose, why do we write? Is it just the love of putting words together to have a pleasant sound, or because we seek information, or to give it? To me the words of the song "Higher Ground" seem to express the thought. It is to lift some one out of the rut, to cheer the discouraged, to give instruction.

The saying "experience is the best teacher," fits here. All of us know we have dearly bought our lessons at some time in life, so why not pass those lessons along, to keep a brother or sister out of the same trouble. How are we to know the road to that "Higher Ground," unless there are sign boards along the way? So, don't fail to pass on the experiences. Useful it will be to someone, as a friendly hand reaching out to help him over the rough rocks of life.

There's the case of the fellow who bought an auto for \$150 and has since put the same amount in repairs, and still has an old machine that runs when it wants to. That same auto stopped at the foot of a big hill and out the people got to see what was the matter. The auto soon started and when they got in again, it would not move, so out they got, then up the hill it went, exactly as an over-loaded horse would do. Moral—don't buy an old auto and expect it to do as good work as a new one.—Mrs. J. K.

### BACK TO THE OLD HOME.

Dear Home Circle:—We have made another move this fall, and are now back at our old home again. It is pleasant to meet and greet former friends and associates. I am glad that I was raised in the Ozarks, because our people are so sociable and hospitable that it makes life pleasant to be in their midst.

I find quite an improvement in the country, even in the two years I have been away, and there are many new people locating here from other sections.

For the present we are stopping in Mountain Grove, until we get settled somewhere in the country. Perhaps I can give your readers a sketch of the poultry experiment station while here, as I visited it last April, and was very much interested in the work being done there.

Recently I sampled several varieties of apples from the state fruit experiment station and they were as near perfect as an apple could be, or so it seemed to me. They were absolutely free from any worms, or rotten spots, and the color was beautiful and flavor delicious.—Mrs. A. H. Bauer, Missouri.



No Time is Lost in Testing the Treasures Left by Santa Claus.



# 3 BIG DOLLIES

Here is a great, big, handsome life-size doll, 27 inches tall, (2¼ feet) that we want to send to every little girl who wants a dollie.

She is just the finest playmate any little girl could wish for. You will love her as soon as you see her pretty face and big brown eyes, her pink cheeks and light curly hair.

In addition to the great big dollie we also want to send you two smaller dollies, making 3 dollies in all.

You will have lots of fun playing together and needn't be afraid of hurting dollie or her two baby dolls because they won't break, soil their hair or lose their pretty eyes.

You can sit these dolls down, bend their arms and legs and dress them up in all kinds of clothes and play all day long without hurting them.

If you are a little girl or boy ask your mother or father to send for these dollies, or if you have some little girl or boy friend who has a birthday soon these 3 dollies will more than please them.

Most toys—especially dolls, are imported from Europe. There will be a great scarcity this year on account of the war.



No Little Girl Has Enough Dolls



Bigger Than a Baby

## Important Notice!

The demand for these three dolls is tremendous. Don't delay sending for a set of these Dolls another minute. Most dollies are made in Europe and there is going to be a great scarcity this year. Order as many doll sets as you have little friends. They make the best kind of Xmas presents. We refund your money if you don't find our dolls are better than we represent. Hurry! Act quickly! Make all your little friends happy!

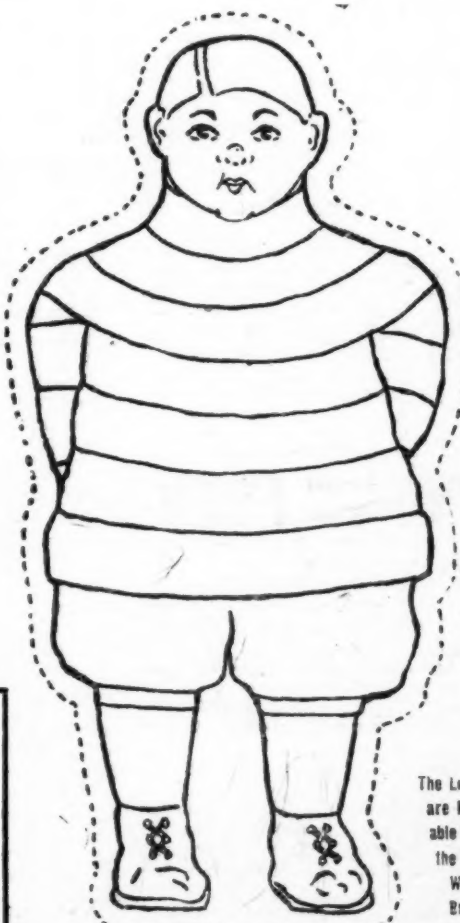
These three beautiful dollies will make any little girl or boy happy. They won't break and we believe they are the most popular plaything you can give your children or little friends. They make fine birthday gifts.

Actual size of Big Dolly, 27 inches tall, (2¼ feet). It is so large that baby's own clothes fit it.

Every little girl wants a big doll. Think of the joy and happiness these three dollies will bring into your own home when the little ones see them.

All three dollies on one large sheet of heavy cloth, ready to sew up on machine and stuff. So simple anyone can do it in ten minutes' time.

Thousands of little ones all over the country have been made happy with these three dollies. After your little girl gets her dolls all your neighbors' children will want dolls just like hers.



The Limbs are Movable and the Doll Won't Break

## SPECIAL OFFER!

We will send a complete sample set of these three beautiful dolls to any address for 15c and at the same time we will tell you about our wonderful money-making plan. Everybody who sees these beautiful dollies wants a set. Every reader of this paper should send for one or more sets of these dolls on this plan. Sign the coupon below, and send it right away with 15c in stamps or coin and the complete doll outfit and our wonderful money-making plan will be sent you by return mail.

The price of dolls and toys will be much higher this year on account of the war, because most dolls are imported. Our offer will remain the same as last year, unless we are forced to raise it.

### SIGN THIS COUPON

People's Supply Co., St. Louis, Mo.,

Date.....

I enclose 15 cents (stamps or coin) for one complete set of 3 dolls. You may also send me your money-making plan. Send dolls postpaid and you agree to return my money if dolls are not as represented.

NAME ..... P. O. ....

R. F. D. .... Box. .... STATE. ....



## THE MERRY GAME CLUB FOR OUR BOYS & GIRLS

Conducted by the President—Essil-  
lyn Dale Nichols, Sweet Water, Ill.

Dear Kiddies:—As I want to print at least four games this week I will begin them at once. Our first prize game was sent in by Eula Shook, Beatrice, W. Va., whose game is called,

### The Two Hats.

Any number of players may take part in this game. To begin, two hats are secured and one player is chosen for the leader. The leader puts on one hat and places the other on the head of one of the players who must do exactly opposite to what the leader does and refuse to do everything the leader suggests or invites. The leader then begins to talk to the player with the intention of bothering (him or her) and so secure a forfeit. The conversation may be as follows: Leader (standing): "Allow me to offer you a hat, my friend." (sits down) Victim (standing up): "I am much obliged to you, but I already have one." Leader: "Scarcely as becoming as this one; won't you try it on?" Leader stands up. Victim sits down saying: "No thanks." Leader: "Allow me to place this hat on your head." Victim: "Thank you, not at present, although I'll admit it is a charming hat." Leader, throwing self into a chair and using hat for a fan: "Dear me, how hot it is; Pray do not rise on my account." Victim, of course, must stand up and make some appropriate answer. If the leader causes the victim to make some mistake the victim must pay a forfeit and the leader puts the hat on another player, and so on.

Eula—This game, I imagine, requires a great deal of wit and quick thinking on the part of the players and should be enjoyed by the older children. A prize will be sent to you soon.

Our next prize game was sent in by Alton Perryman, Dubberly, La., whose game is called,

### Wolf Over the Ridge.

Any number of players may take part in this game which should be played out of doors. To begin, two bases are chosen quite a distance apart. One is occupied by the wolf and the other by the rest of the players. When all are ready the wolf will say: "What have you got?" and the rest of the players answer: "More than you can catch at one grab," whereupon the wolf runs toward the players' base and the players run toward the wolf's base. All players caught by the wolf while running this way must be wolves and help catch the others.

Alton—I used to play this game at school when I was a little girl, only we called it: "Pump—Pump—Pull—Away." A prize will be sent to you shortly.

Our next prize game was sent in by Nannie Lou Perryman, Dubberly, La., whose game is called,

### Hundred.

Any number of players may take part in this game. To begin a base is chosen which may be a tree or a post or anything of that kind and one of the players hides his (or her) eyes against this base and counts one hundred and says: "Bushel of wheat—bushel of rye—all not hidden—holler I." Any player who has not succeeded in finding a hiding place calls "I" and the one at the base counts another hundred and says: "Bushel of wheat—bushel of clover—all not hidden—can not hide over," and proceeds to hunt for hidden players. Of course, all players watch a chance to run to base and pat three times on it, saying: "One—two—three for me." But if the searcher finds a player, both searcher and player make a dash for the base and if searcher reaches it first he says: "One—two—three for (names the player) and that player must hide his eyes against the base next time. All players must reach the base or be found by searcher before another game is begun.

Nannie Lou—I used to play this game at school, too, but we used to call it "Hide and Seek." I will send you a prize for it soon.

Our next prize game was sent in by Robert Dyer, Belmont, Ohio, whose game is called,

### Run a Mile.

As many can play this game as wish, the more the merrier. To begin, base is chosen and one of the players must be "It." "It" must face the base and the rest of players must take up positions back of "It." Then one of the players touches "It" on the back and "It" must guess who it is. If the guess is correct the player who has touched "It" calls out "right" and tries to reach the base before "It" does. If "It" reaches base first the other player must be "It" and so the game continues.

Robert—Many of our members will enjoy this game I am sure and I will send you a prize for it soon.

Our next prize game was sent in by Grace Campbell of Pittsville, Md.; whose game is called,

### Still Waters.

This is a nice game to play in the house. To begin, one player is blindfolded and the other players run about the room until the blindfolded player calls out: "Still Waters," whereupon every player must stop right where he or she is and not move. The blindfolded player then moves carefully about until one of the silent quiet players are touched. Then the blindfolded player grunts and the other player must also grunt. The blindfolded player has three trials in guessing who it is. If the guess is correct the blindfolded player changes places with the other player and the other player must be blindfolded, and so the game goes on.

Grace—This is a little bit like "Texas Grunt" isn't it? But I think many of our little players will like to play "Still Waters." A prize will be sent to you soon.

Following are names of members who have sent in games recently: Agnes Burrows, Garden Grove, Cal.; Ethel Herring, Jackson, Ga.; Maud Knight, Gulf, N. C.; Leona Fish, Vine-land, N. J.; Sally Erin Jolly, Vami-dale, Ark.; Sudie Henry, Ivanhoe, N. C. Now, good bye.

### The Man for the Job.

As a country physician was driving through a village he saw a man amusing a crowd with the antics of his trick dog. The doctor pulled up and said:

"My dear man, how do you manage to train your dog like that? I can't teach mine a single trick."

The man looked up with a simple, rustic look, and replied:

"Well you see, it's this way: you have to know more'n the dog, or you can't learn him nothin'."

## THE RURAL WORLD PATTERN SERVICE



1464. Set of Doll's Dress, Petticoat and Drawers.—Cut in four sizes: 18, 20, 22 and 24 inches in height. It requires 1 yard of 27-inch material for the dress, and ½ yard for the petticoat and drawers, for a 20-inch size.

9163. Infant's Set.—Consisting of a cap, a sack, a night gown and dress. Cut in one size. For the dress of flouncing it will require 1½ yards of 36-inch material with 1½ yards of plain material for yoke and sleeves. Of nainsook or lawn 36 inches wide it will require 2½ yards. The gown will require 2½ yards of 24 to 27-inch material. The cap, ½ yard of 18-inch material. The sack requires ¾ yard of 27-inch material.

1505. Girls' Waist and Drawers.—Cut in six sizes: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. It requires 1½ yards for the waist, and 1½ yards for the drawers, of 36-inch material for an 8-year size.

1507. Ladies' Dress.—Cut in six sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires 7½ yards of 36-inch material for a 36-inch size. The skirt measures about 3½ yards at the foot.

1263. Costume for Misses and Small Women.—Cut in four sizes: 14, 16, 17 and 18 years. It requires 6¼ yards of 36-inch material for a 16-year size. The skirt measures about 2½ yards at the foot.

1514. Ladies' Costume.—Cut in six sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires 6½ yards of 44-inch material for a 36-inch size. The skirt measures about 3½ yards at the foot.

1523. Ladies' Apron.—Cut in three sizes: Small, medium and large. It requires 6½ yards of 36-inch material for a medium size.

1517-1501. Ladies' Costume.—Waist No. 1517 is cut in six sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires 2½ yards of 36-inch material for a medium size. Skirt No. 1501 is cut in six sizes: 22, 24, 26,

28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. It requires 3½ yards of 54-inch material for a 24-inch size. This calls for two separate patterns 10c for each pattern.

1531. Girls' Dress.—With or without plastron trimming. Cut in four sizes: 4, 6, 8, and 10 years. It requires 4 yards of 36-inch material for an 8-year size.

1332. Girls' Dress.—With or without blouse. Cut in four sizes: 10, 12, 14 and 16 years. It requires 6 yards of 24-inch material for a 14-year size.

1501. Ladies' Shirt Waist.—With convertible collar. Cut in seven sizes: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires 2½ yards of 40-inch material for a 36-inch size.

1132. Girls' Dress.—Cut in four sizes: 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. It requires 3½ yards of 36-inch material for an 8-year size.

In ordering patterns for waists, give bust measure; for skirts, waist measure; for children, age; for aprons say, large, small or medium.

These patterns will be sent for 10 cents each (silver or stamps). Send 10 cents for each additional pattern.

Fill out this coupon and send it to COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD, 718 Lucas Ave., St. Louis, Mo.:

Pattern No. .... Size .... Years .....

Bust .....in. Waist .....in. ....

Name .....

Address .....

**Beacon Burner FREE**  
FITS YOUR OLD LAMP.  
100 Candle Power Incandescent pure white light from (kerosene) coal oil. Costs either gas or electricity. COSTS ONLY 1 CENT FOR 6 HOURS. We want one person in each locality whom we can refer new customers. Take advantage of our Special Offer to secure a Beacon Burner FREE. Write today. AGENTS WANTED.  
HOME SUPPLY CO., 77 Home Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

## Big Sleeping Doll FREE



This fine sleeping doll is nearly two feet tall, and is all the rage. She has slippers, complete underwear, stockings, etc. Dress is very prettily made, half length, and trimmed with lace; also has a little chateleine watch, with fleur-de-lis pin. You can dress and undress this doll just like a real baby. Has curly hair, pearly teeth, rosy cheeks, beautiful eyes, and goes to sleep just as natural as life when you lay her down.

This doll free for selling only 20 of our magnificent art and religious pictures at 10 cents each. We trust you with pictures until sold, and give an extra surprise gift for prompt sale. Send no money—just your name.

PEOPLE'S SUPPLY CO., Dept. R. W., St. Louis, Mo.





THE Christmas tree is, perhaps, foremost among all the Christmas observances, and where there are children in the household it has come to be almost indispensable. Some of the trees are very small, so small, in fact, that they can be propped in a box, or on a table, while others are large and extremely beautiful; but whichever it be, it brings a joy to the youngsters, and even throws a halo of cheer about the elders, with its shining array of tinsel, streamers, glittering balls, and its load of gifts—every one of which should spell good-will.

Tree-holders may be purchased which, when not in use, can be folded and put aside; and some of them are adjustable to different size trees. When once in the holder the tree can be moved about at will. Lighted candles make it very brilliant, and one is more than repaid for all the work of preparation by the pleasure of both young and old.

Nothing, of course, quite equals the joy of having the distribution of gifts presided over by a real Santa Claus, with shaggy coat and flowing hair and beard. The gifts can either be suspended from the branches of the tree, and distributed by Santa, or, the family being gathered about the tree, which is decorated only with the glittering trimmings, strings of pop-corn, etc., Santa Clause, his pack on his back, may enter either by door or window and proceed to empty his pack, placing the heavier parcels on the floor, about the base of the tree, and hanging the others upon the boughs, taking his departure and leaving the gifts to be distributed later. This prolongs the fun a little and the youngsters watch breathlessly as he thoughtfully unloads his pack.

One does not need spend a great deal of money in order to bring joy to the hearts of the children,—or of any one else, for that matter. Let your selections be wise, and start early enough so there need be no hurried, nervous rush at the last moment. Remember that a gift daintily and attractively wrapped has an added charm. A tiny bit of holly slipped through the knot of ribbon with which the parcel is tied makes it doubly attractive. And above all, don't forget the little breath of love as you tie the knot and send it on its way!—L. D. Stearns, New Hampshire.



The Sweetest Awakening of All the Year for a Child.

#### PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS MADE FROM HOUSEHOLD LEFTOVERS.

To the Home Circle:—Perhaps you do not feel you can afford to give presents this year, and yet you are restless and dissatisfied because you are not doing so. If you get right to work with your head and hands it is wonderful what you may yet accomplish without practically any outlay. There are your old blouses, worn in spots, but still quite strong and good. It is often with regret we put these pretty blouses aside as useless. One lady did wonders from a bundle of hers—made from them dear little baby's bonnets, dainty handkerchiefs (from a fine linen blouse), pretty jabots, handkerchief cases, boudoir caps, dolls' clothes, pin cushion tops, little fancy aprons, and I don't know what not. She was of an ingenious turn of mind, didn't waste time with too much fussy hand work. She used her machine to advantage and did beautiful stitching. Apart from buying ribbon to give the touch of dainty freshness and brightness, her gifts cost nothing but her labor.

Did you ever make gaiters for the children? An old beaver coat is fine for this purpose. Rip carefully an old gaiter to get the pattern—the top of an old buttoned shoe will answer. If carefully made it will take an expert to tell the gaiters were not bought. Blouse protectors are an acceptable gift. These are made of three-inch ribbon with a cord or narrow lace sewed on one edge. Before sewing on the cord or lace make a few pleats in the center of the length of ribbon to fit the neck. These are tacked in the coat—look dainty and pretty, save the coat lining and protect the blouse from soil.

Remnants of elderdown, heavy cotton flannel or blanket can be utilized in making comfortable slumber socks. Make them from the pattern of a big sock, having the seam down the instep, under the foot and up the back. Bound with ribbon and with ribbon strings, these socks are pretty and much appreciated by old people.

A comb and brush bag made of linen, or left over ends of pique, etc., is a useful gift. Take a 12-inch square, hem the top for a draw string, put a couple of patch pockets on the sides for tooth brush, hair pins, etc.; then sew up the bag. A little feather stitching around the pockets adds to its appearance. A scrap of silk or art muslin sewed up, hemmed at both ends, and elastic run in the hems, makes a nice cover for a potted plant for the table.

These gifts are all inexpensive, quickly made, and are sure to please. If you have not time even for these, then spare a pot of your jam, jelly or marmalade, or tie up a generous slice of your Christmas cake or pudding, first in white, then in red, tissue paper; tie with green ribbon, and if you

have it, put on top a little sprig of holly; and ease your heart's desire to let a few of your dear old friends know in a tangible manner that your love for them only grows stronger with each succeeding Christmas.—E. C. M.

#### LITTLE HOME-MADE CAKES FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

No presents I have ever been able to send or give to anyone at Christmas time have ever given more pleasure than my "little Christmas cakes." To the teacher who cannot return to her home, the music teacher in lodgings, the nurse in training, the cousin alone in the world, they take a little of the home spirit and are always welcome. I carefully keep all small tin boxes. Half-pound tea boxes have proved best, and then when "the cake" is made these boxes are carefully buttered, lined with parchment paper, and re-buttered, nearly filled with the cake mixture and steamed two hours, then baked in a slow oven one hour; cool a few minutes, and then turn out. The paper removed while hot and the cake left to cool for at least two days. The top is then iced with confectioner's sugar and water and imitation holly spray made from chocolate put in icing; for stem, leaves cut from citron peel, and wintergreens for berries. The side cannot have icing. The cakes may be sent in their own boxes, with several layers of parchment paper round them and a little packing over them. Before returning cakes to the boxes, slightly dint the sides so that the string will hold securely when tied. These cakes have helped a large number to pass Christmas Day more cheerfully. The following recipe may help some, as it is very good and will make six or eight to send away, and a nice lot left for the family, and generally cost about \$1.50.

Christmas Fruit Cake.—In large bowl put three pounds of stoned and cut raisins, three pounds washed and picked currants, one pound of cut (not too finely) mixed peels, one-half pound of blanched and cut almonds.

In another bowl: Cream, one pounds good butter, one pound light brown sugar, nine eggs, half tea-cup golden syrup, two wine glasses of cold strained coffee, one and a half nutmegs (grated), one teaspoon cinnamon, one teaspoon cloves, one teaspoon allspice, one pound flour, one teaspoon soda, mix thoroughly; then pour this over the contents in first bowl, and very little mixing will be needed. The larger cakes for ordinary use should be steamed three hours and baked one and a half to two hours. Be very careful not to burn.—E. C. M.

#### A LUNCHEON SET FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Just before Christmas every woman is searching for new ideas for Christmas gifts. She wants to find something that is new, attractive, useful and at the same time inexpensive. She likes to have something that she can easily make herself.

A luncheon set will make an exceptionally nice Christmas present. The set can be made by hand and the material will cost only 65 cents.

Here's the way to make it: Get a yard of linen, 47 inches wide, any color desired; blue or yellow are to be preferred. Then take a compass or, if there is no compass handy, take a cup, saucer or plate and draw circles with varying diameters. For the cup and saucer dolly the circle should be four inches in diameter; for the bread and butter plate dolly, five inches in diameter; the breakfast plate dolly, seven inches in diameter. Around this circle a space one and a quarter inches wide should be left for the fringe. Take the dolly and stitch around the inner circle. The fringe can be easily made by pulling the threads on the outside of the stitched circle.

For the center dolly the inner circle should be 14 inches and two inches should be allowed for fringe. The fringe should then be combed out, pressed and trimmed evenly. Art denim may be used in place of linen, as it is not as expensive.—E. C. M.

## OUR SHORT STORY

### A Christmas

#### Cinderella

By Allison Howard Gibson.

AS Hal Martin jumped over the little rocky stream which crossed the trail up the canyon, he realized he had given his ankle an ugly twist.

"I wish I hadn't tried to take Bob by surprise by walking the seven miles from the station to that blooming old ranch of his," he thought, as he sat down on a rock and rubbed the sprained member.

Suddenly from out the chaparral on the slope to his right a sweet contralto voice with cowbell accompaniment trilled:

"Every lassie has her laddie—  
Ne'er a one has I—"

The song ended very abruptly on the high note, as Martin stood up and confronted a young girl with a pair of startled violet eyes. She wore a neat but faded blue-checked gingham skirt, a gray sweater, and a black sailor hat swung in her hand, while her hair, like red gold, fell in gypsyish abandon over

**23 RUBY \$35 GOLD WATCH**  
Here is the watch you have always wanted. Rent you at our risk and expense. Send no money, not even a deposit. Write if you prefer open face or hunting case. Ladies or gents watch, sent C. O. D. to your F. O. or for free examination and test to your Express office. We'll send the beautifully engraved 1916 TIME NOVEL. 25-YEAR GUARANTEED AMERICAN MADE WATCH. If you are satisfied with it and are sure it equals a \$75 gold watch, pay us only \$3.50 and the watch is yours. DREXEL JEWELRY CO., Dept. 64, Chicago

#### 52 Xmas Post Cards FREE

Our prize collection of 52 most beautiful Christmas postcards, gift tags, seals, stickers and labels in lovely colors and exquisite gold embossed designs, all different. The daintiest and most complete collection ever offered. Make your Christmas gifts attractive by adding a touch of the Holiday spirit with a few appropriate Christmas stickers and labels. Remember your friends with the Christmas greeting postcards. Entire collection sent free and postpaid to all who send in only 10c for a three month trial subscription to our big monthly home and story magazine. Address: HOUSEHOLD MAGAZINE, Dept. X13, Topeka, Kansas

**GERMAN SILVER MESH BAG FREE**  
Oxidized frame, prettily embossed with handsome floral design; 16-inch chain. Mesh Bags are made of very fine mesh. Given free for selling 20 large art and religious pictures at 10c each. We trust you with pictures until sold, and give 4 beautiful postcards as a extra gift for promptness. Send name. A postcard will come. People's Supply Co., Dept. W 716 Lucas Ave., St. Louis

#### Harold Gregson Art Panel Calendar 1916

**FREE** This beautiful art calendar for 1916 is reproduced in 12 delicately blended colors from the original painting by Harold Gregson, the famous New York artist. The accompanying illustration gives only a faint impression of the rare beauty and exquisite coloring of the original. The gown is a deep rich purple almost impossible to describe and the subject and color scheme is a work of art which will adorn any home.

The panel is 35 inches long by 7 inches wide. It has absolutely no advertising on the front, the calendar being printed on the back. This beautiful panel is a wonderful reproduction of the original painting. Framed or unframed it makes a picture to be proud of and one you will enjoy for years.

**GIVEN FREE WITH AMERICAN FARMING**  
We send this beautiful calendar free, securely wrapped in mailing tube, to introduce our practical little farm paper, containing only the newest and best of farm reading, once a month, for the farmer, his wife, the boys and the girls. You will like AMERICAN FARMING from the very first issue.

**OFFER** We will send one of these beautiful Art Panels free and postpaid to any address in the U. S. with a yearly subscription at 25 cents, new or renewal. To our long term subscribers and others who want a copy, we will send the ART PANEL for 10 cents in coin or stamps (coin preferred), to cover wrapping and mailing. Send early. Supply limited. American Farming 118 Art Dept., Chicago

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her shoulders. Her right hand held a manzanita switch with which she had no doubt been accelerating the lingering footsteps of bossie, now moving forward up the trail, her bell tinkling not unmusically as she loitered to snatch a mouthful here and there. The warm winter rains of Southern California had begun, and already the mountain slopes showed patches of green where the tender herbage was peeping forth.

"Pardon me," said the young man, lifting his hat, "I started to visit to Mr. Robert Overton's ranch, where I've been invited for a Christmas party; but I sprained my ankle jumping that stream and I'm afraid I can't make it. Do you know of any house near where I could spend the night?"

"My aunt, Mary Jane McLarnie, has an adobe just back of the pines," answered the girl. "My uncle's not at home, but aunt won't turn any one away that's hurt."

"Thank you," returned Hal, picking up his suit case and limping after the girl. "I'm sorry to trouble you to take a stranger in."

"Aunt Mary Jane'll be glad to have you to stop with us," she assured him, glancing over her shoulder. "Your foot's hurting you, I know. Here, let me carry that satchel."

The twinges in Hal's ankle dispelled the protest he was disposed to put up against letting a girl carry his baggage. As she strode on up the trail swinging his suit case, he again marked with admiration her perfect health and free, graceful movements.

"May I ask your name?" he ventured, hobbling in her wake.

"Oh, they call me Bert up here in the canyon," she answered with a laugh.

"Bert?" he repeated.

"Yes, Bert MacLarnie. You see, I'm chore boy about the ranch, so the name suits. Are you a friend of Bob Overton's?" she shot back.

"Well, I'm trying to be," Martin returned, smiling in spite of the pain in his foot.

"Trying to be?" she quoted him.

"Yes. You see, Overton is stealing my sister—going to marry her," he explained. "Naturally I feel a little sore, if Bob and I were in the same class at Harvard. I'm on my way to spend the holiday week with him. Bob is going to have some friends out to the ranch from San Francisco. He is giving a Christmas party for Sis to celebrate their approaching wedding."

"You call your sister Sis, do you?"

"Yes, she's Sis to home folks, but in society she's Millicent Hershey Martin."

Hal Martin's last words elicited a quick whistle of surprise from the girl, and she turned and looked at him with a comical little smile on her lips. Encountering the young man's dark eyes, she blushed, then hurried on up the trail.

"I heard Bob Overton was going to marry an aristocrat from Frisco," she remarked with a queer little chuckle.

"Bob's a first-class old chap, but if I'd been at home I'd have made him wait a year yet for Sis. You see, she's just out of Stanford, and I've been abroad studying art for nearly four years. I haven't seen much of my sister lately, and now that I'm home I'd like to keep her with us for a while," he confided.

"I don't blame you," she sympathized.

She left Martin on the porch while she entered the adobe house to apprise her aunt of the advent of a guest. Presently she reappeared with cheeks radiantly flushed, followed by a rosy, kindly-faced woman whom she introduced as "Aunt Mary Jane." He was soon ensconced in the best chamber, where Mrs. MacLarnie fussed over his sprain with motherly solicitude.

"Bert says I mother everybody," she laughed good-naturedly, "so you mustn't mind my fussing over you."

"Very kind of you to take so much trouble for a stranger," Martin assured her.

"Nothin's any trouble for me to do for Bert's friends," she declared warmly.

"Aunt Mary Jane, you'd better bring some more hot water, and I'll bathe the sprain," interrupted the girl, her cheeks flaming strangely.

Hal Martin noticed how shapely the little hands were that applied the warm cloths to his swollen ankle. He liked the tender touch of her fingers, and began to scheme mentally how he could prevent Bob from learning of his accident.

The next morning he was much better, but was informed by his nurses that it would never do for him to try to use his foot in walking much for two or three days.

As Bert arranged for him a dainty breakfast of poached eggs, crisp brown toast, with a glass of loganberry jelly, and a cup of steaming hot milk, Martin watched her and wondered how this simple mountain maid had acquired the easy grace which characterized her every movement.

"How far is it to the Overton ranch?" he asked as he ate the toast.

"A good ten miles by the trail," answered Bert.

"You can shorten it by going through Big Bear Pass. Mr. Bob has a nice car. I can ride over and tell him you're here and he can take you over in his car."

"How anxious you are to get rid of me!" complained Hal.

"Don't think that," she smiled. "But I thought you might prefer to be with Mr. Bob's guests as soon as possible."

"No haste, I assure you," he asserted, sipping the delicious hot milk. "I'm too thoroughly a Bohemian to care to dance attendance to that Stanford chum of Sis's that she has selected for bride's maid next month. The truth is I don't care for society girls."

"How disappointed that Stanford chum of your sister's will be in not having your attentions!"

(Concluded Next Issue.)

#### CHRISTMAS CAKES FOR CHILDREN

Ingredients—Two cupfuls of lard, two cupfuls of molasses, one egg, one teaspoonful of powdered cloves, one teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon, half teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of baking soda, three tablespoonfuls of hot water, flour, one orange, some confectioner's sugar.

Melt the lard and allow it to cool, then dissolve in the hot water, the egg well beaten, salt, and enough flour to roll. Cut out with fancy cutters, lay on buttered baking-tins and bake in a quick oven. Put the grated rind and the strained juice of the orange into a small basin and stir in enough confectioner's sugar to make a frosting that will spread. Ice the cakes with this frosting when they are cold.

#### WESTERN CHILLI SAUCE.

Chop very fine six large green peppers, from which the seeds and white pulp have been removed, and four large onions. Cut into small pieces 24 large ripe tomatoes. Put these all into a kettle, mix thoroughly and add three tablespoonfuls of salt, eight tablespoonfuls of brown sugar, six cupfuls of vinegar, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon and one of cloves, also one ounce of mustard seeds. Boil gently one hour and seal in pint jars.

#### THREE-EGG SPONGE BATTER.

One cup sugar, one cup flour, one and a half teaspoons of baking powder, three eggs, one-third of a cup of hot water, one-half teaspoon of flavoring. Sift the sugar into the mixing

bowl and then sift the flour with the baking powder in with it and mix these well together with a pinch of salt. Beat eggs well and stir into dry ingredients, then add the water, and finally the flavoring. Beat for at least five minutes, and then pour into buttered and papered dripping pan. Bake from 12 to 15 minutes, according to thickness.

If for jelly roll the layer of batter should not be over one-fourth of an inch thick. If to be cut in squares, etc., this amount of batter will make a cake eight by 14 inches of about the right thickness. It is sufficient to

make two jelly rolls of this size, but a wider and shorter pan would be better if the cake was to be used for this purpose. If to be used for a jelly roll turn out on sugar sprinkled paper, cut off edges along the length, cover with warm jelly, roll and wrap in cloth.

Little layer cakes of any shape may be made by putting two pieces of this cake together with jelly. Cut always with a hot knife if the cake is still warm.

From a standpoint of butter production Missouri has the greatest college herd of dairy cows in the world.

## Farmers' Classified Department

70,000 PAID CIRCULATION

RATE ONLY TWO CENTS A WORD

Colman's Rural World has a family of over 70,000 paid in advance subscribers every week. This means that at least 350,000 farm folks are readers of these columns. Figure the cost of sending each of these readers a personal letter each week and then compare that cost with the low rate at which you can reach them ALL through the Classified Columns below. Count up the words in your advertisement, including initials and numbers which count as words, and multiply by two and you will quickly appreciate how low the cost is to reach these 70,000 buyers every week. No advertisement less than 10 cents accepted—and no fakes under any circumstances. Cash must accompany all orders.

ADDRESS,

Colman's Rural World Advertising Department 718 Lucas Av., St. Louis, Mo.

#### FARM WANTED.

WANTED to hear from owner of farm or fruit ranch for sale. O. O. Mattson, 49 Andrus Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

WANTED—Good farm; well located; posy season next spring. Give price and description. W. Kirkendall, Box 754, Chicago.

#### LIVE STOCK.

RED POLLED BULLS for sale. P. J. Murta, Cuba, Missouri.

O. I. C.—Pigs, large kind, \$15.00 per pair. Write for circulars. Ray Ruebush, Sciota, Ill.

REGISTERED Guernsey bulls, 14 months old. Chas. Hienfeld, Luxembourg, Wis., R. No. 2.

HOLSTEINS—Registered or grades, all ages; low prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. John Lockwood, Marengo, Ia.

O. I. C. and Berkshire boars and gilts ready for service; registered, \$16.00; 10-week pigs, \$6.00. Jas. Alvey, Billings, Mo.

REGISTERED Shorthorn cattle and immune Berkshire hogs at farmers' prices. The Yellow Bank Farm, Sweet Springs, Mo.

REGISTERED STOCK—Red Polled cattle, Berkshire hogs and White Rock poultry. Stock for sale at all times. Cedar Valley Farm, Leslie, Mo.

FOR SALE—One fine registered Holstein bull calf, seven months old; beautifully marked and excellent breeding. Price \$40. Photo free. Walter Oden, Amboy, Ind. R. 14.

STERS FOR SALE—One load of Shorthorns, 650 lbs.; two loads of Herefords, 800 lbs.; one hundred head Shorthorns, 950 lbs. Know of others. Write at once, stating your wants. W. W. Dyer, Ottumwa, Ia.

#### FERRETS.

FERRETS—Single pairs and dozen lots. Stamp for price list. Ella Jewell, Spencer, Ohio.

#### DOGS, RABBITS AND PET STOCK.

FOXES WANTED—100 Reds and Greys. Ross Brown, McFall, Ala.

FOR SALE—A pack of fox and cat hounds, also 2 coon dogs. Jno M. Dodson, Linden, Tenn.

FOX, COON, SKUNK and rabbit hounds, broke to gun and field and guaranteed. Fox and coon hound pups, \$5.00 each. Buy your hound new and be acquainted by hunting season. Stamp for photos. H. C. Lytle, Fredericksburg, O.

#### POULTRY.

##### Anconas.

SINGLE COMB Ancona cockerels, breeding or exhibiting. P. E. Gregoire, Newton, Illinois, Route 6.

##### Barred Rocks.

BARRED ROCK cockerels for sale. Frank Miller, Clarinda, Iowa.

BARRED ROCK cockerels; satisfaction guaranteed. Write for free booklet. Sunny-side Poultry Farm, Owensville, Box 22, Mo.

##### Orpingtons.

WHITE ORPINGTONS, single comb, some fine exhibition stock for sale at very attractive prices. W. G. Langehaug, Jackson, Mo.

##### Several Varieties.

FOR SALE—White Wyandottes, White Rocks, hens, pullets and cockerels. Prices, \$1.00 each. J. Wolf, Wheeler, Ill.

##### Geese.

MANMOTH TOULOUSE GEESSE, \$5 pair. Ed. Sterns, Herrin, Ill.

##### Turkeys.

NARRAGANSETT TURKEYS, large bone, vigorous, healthy birds; toms, \$5.50; hens, \$3.50. Mrs. R. O. Lane, R. 2, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

#### FARMS AND LANDS.

CALIFORNIA FARMS for sale; write for information. E. R. Waite, Shawnee, Okla.

MUST SELL, 240 acres all bottom land, well imp. Young's Realty Co., Howard, Kan.

CALIFORNIA improved alfalfa, fruit and dairy farms for sale. Write, E. R. Waite, Shawnee, Okla.

BEST BARGAINS in Eastern Kansas, 150 farms for sale. Write what you want first letter. G. W. Depue, Parker, Kansas.

1,500 ACRES coal, oil, farming, pasture land and leases. \$3 to \$15 per acre. No trades. John Cavanagh, McAlester, Okla.

YOU CAN GET free ranch in South America by assisting in paying expenses to secure million acre concession. Rich soil, fine climate. Highest references. Map 25c. Box 498, Sawtelle, Calif.

HOUSES FOR HOMELESS. We sell farms on your terms. You share in profits of company. Send for free literature. Florida Farm and Home Company, Johnstown, Florida, Dept. C. Agents wanted.

THE BEST 80-acre farm in Fannin Co., 6 miles from Bonham, on public road. Have good improvements. Orchard and lots of water. No waste land. \$75 per acre. J. T. Owens, Bonham, Tex. R. 2.

KUDZA; great new perennial legume hay, grow like cowpeas, but last ten years, three cuttings; day to cure; shed no leaves. Richest feed; fed green or dry. Highly recommended. Pamphlet free. Kudza Farms, Semmes, Alabama.

#### SEED AND NURSERY STOCK.

SWEET CLOVER, white and mammoth yellow. Write, Mrs. J. T. Mardis, Falmouth, Ky., R. 4.

#### FOOD PRODUCTS.

RETAILERS, 30c Quality Coffee 5 lbs. for \$1. "Delivered Free." Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Mendenhall Bros., Denver, Ohio.

#### HELP WANTED.

WISH TO HEAR at once from reliable single man, capable of managing large ranch successfully. Mrs. Ward, Box 357, Valley, Nebr.

NOTICE—NOTICE—15,000 men and women will get U. S. Government jobs this year. \$75.00 month. Vacations. No layoffs. Short hours. Common education sufficient. "Pull" unnecessary. Write immediately for free list of positions now obtainable. Franklin Institute, Dep't. E 197, Rochester, N. Y.

#### AGENTS.

AGENTS WANTED everywhere, Peyton Nurseries, Boonville, Mo.

WANTED—Man to sell trees, shrubs, roses, berry bushes. Permanent. Brown Brothers Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.

#### BEES AND HONEY.

HONEY—Pure extracted—2 cans of 60 lbs. each, light amber, \$9.50. Amber, \$8.50. Also bees. John Ruyts, Carlsbad, N. Mex.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

PURE-BRED POULTRY wanted for camera. M. O. Clayton, Mildred, Mo.

PRINTING—Business cards, envelopes, 100, 25c. Auto Press, Montclair, N. J.

SEND \$1.00 FOR RECIPE to cure wind-broken horses to Box 251, Bamberg, S. C.

FINE CHEWING and smoking tobacco. Three years old. Send stamps for samples. W. L. Parks Tobacco Co., Adams, Tenn.

FOR SALE—40,000 pounds best leaf tobacco, from 3 to 6 years old. Mail stamps for sample to Anton Wavrin, Franklin, Ky., R. No. 5.

WATER PROOF leather dressing, makes dry leather pliable; shoes snow waterproof; double the life of your harness and other leather goods by keeping the water out. Sample postpaid, 15 cts. Write, Geo. Sanford, Hastings, Neb.



#### AUTOMOBILE FREE

The Argo is one of the best Cars Made. I will give you one free if you will work for me, I want to increase my business in all territories and if you will help me I will help you.

The Argo Car is the cheapest car to run. Its maintenance is less than for any other automobile made. Write me today and I will tell you how you can win this automobile. It will prove to be the easiest work you ever did.

HENRY L. FREKING

Dept. 2, Spencer, Ind.

#### This Splendid Watch Free



Our fully guaranteed American made Watch is highly engraved, stem-wind, stem set, simulated gold finish; desirable size for ladies or gents; late thin model, fancy bevel, new design. Given free for selling only 20 large, beautiful art and religious pictures at 10c each. We trust you with pictures until sold. Send name today. We give a splendid job for promptness.

PEOPLE'S SUPPLY CO., Dept. H. W., ST. LOUIS, MO.



# WANTED! WE WANT 300 AGENTS AT \$35.00 TO \$70.00 A WEEK

New invention—just out. Needed in every home every day. Patent just applied for. Nothing else like it. Supplies what every housewife has wished for for years. Perfected after long experimental work by mechanical experts. Low priced—anyone can use it—sells on sight.

We want three hundred representatives at once—men or women hustlers—to advertise, accept orders and manage deliveries for our new Quickedge Knife and Shear Sharpener. Sharpens any kitchen knife, paring knife, carving knife, bread knife or shears and scissors in ten seconds. Agents are taking orders at every house—wiring for rush shipments. Write today for this opportunity to make \$10.00 to \$20.00 every day—over

## \$300 PER MONTH

This little machine is a mechanical masterpiece. A child can use it. Just put knife in slot—turn crank—grinds automatically—draws blade to keen, sharp, perfect, lasting edge at absolutely correct bevel for daily use. Nothing to adjust—nothing to change, nothing to wear out or get out of order—absolutely guaranteed—will last for years—once they see it and use it women will not do without it for ten times its cost. One agent wrote: "It was easier for me to learn to sell the Quickedge than it was to learn to tear open my pay envelope in my former dollar-a-day job." Get out of the dollar-a-day class. Get this position, where profits start the first day.

## NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Just take one of the machines to any house and show it—give a ten-second demonstration upon the dulllest knife in the house; the order is yours right on the spot; instantly. No talking necessary. No argument. The machine simply sells itself; and stays sold. Every customer becomes your friend. They tell others; your profits double and multiply. Leave one hundred on trial over night. Collect the cash for everyone of them next day. The machine will do its own talking; it is so easy to operate; no explanations or instructions are necessary. Secure your county now; free. Get started right now and

## MAKE AS MUCH MONEY NEXT WEEK AS THESE MEN ARE MAKING NOW

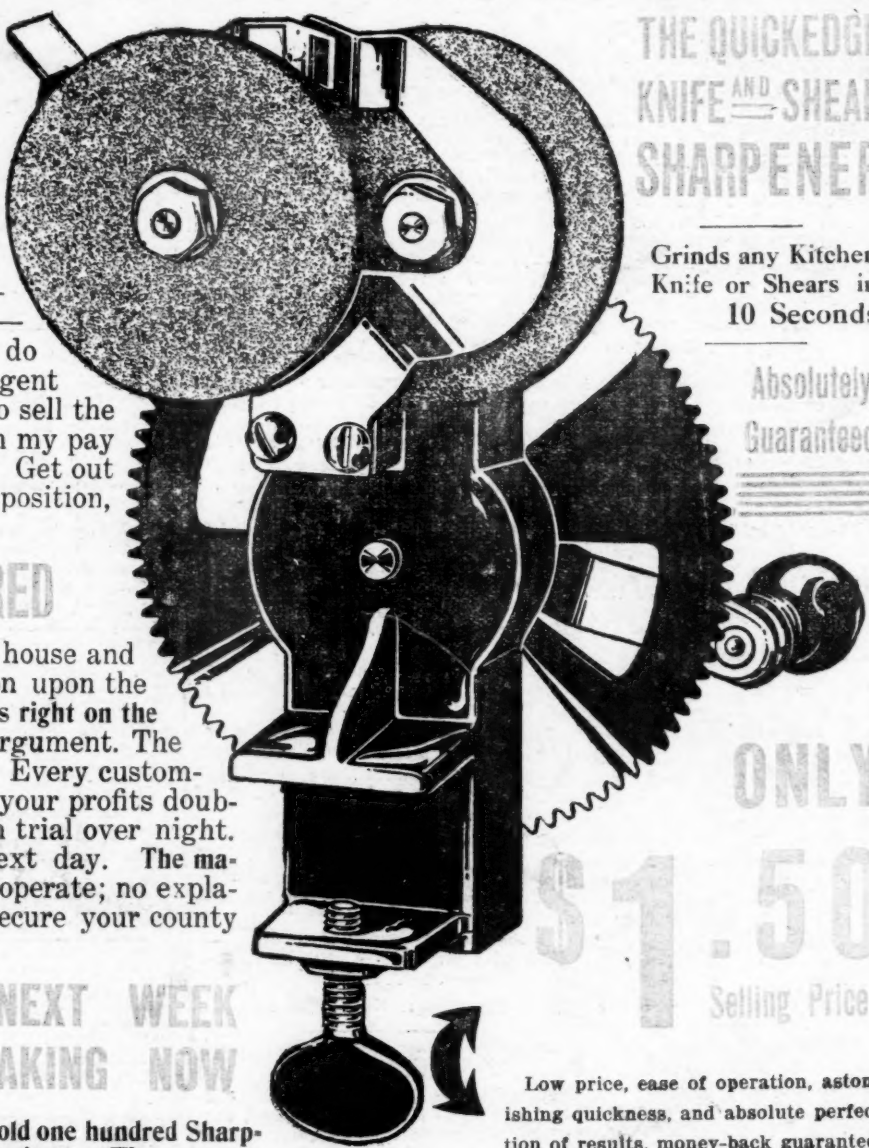
J. C. Lewis, of Kansas, says: "I have sold one hundred Sharpeners in four days." Hobart Kerr, of Md., writes: "The women can hardly wait till they get them." Herbert Cain, of Ky., sold nine after supper. At the end of his first day, J. W. Gordon, of Pa., writes: "I have sold two dozen, and I sold to everyone I saw." Wm. G. Hall, of N. J., says: "I think it is great, I sold six in about one-half hour. The machine is a mighty fine proposition. I am a mechanic, and I know what I am talking about." Peter Courtland, of Mich., writes: I received your sharpener and opened it in a barbershop. I ground his shears, and got an order for one right on the spot." H. A. Henkel, of Va., says: "I have examined it and find it a wonderful little machine. The workmanship is simply perfect." Frank King, Colo., says: "Sample received Saturday. Sold ten today. Sell to most every house." Forest Webb, of Pa., says: "Went out Monday afternoon for about three hours and received one dozen orders." Profit \$12.00. H. Tillery, of Tenn., wrote: "Took three orders first hour. When you sharpen an old dull knife, dull as a hoe, in less than a minute, they sit up and look." Ray Carter, of Mass., writes: "I went out two days and have orders for thirty sharpeners." Profit \$30.00 for first two days. John Durr, of Wis., also says: "I have sold thirty in two days."

You can make this money. Send now. Territory free. Get busy. Write Today.

## THE QUICKEDGE SHARPENER CO.,

DEPT. 553

215 W. SCHILLER STREET. CHICAGO. ILL.



### THE QUICKEDGE KNIFE AND SHEAR SHARPENER

Grinds any Kitchen  
Knife or Shears in  
10 Seconds

Absolutely  
Guaranteed

## ONLY

# \$1.50

Selling Price

Low price, ease of operation, astonishing quickness, and absolute perfection of results, money-back guarantee. These things make the Quickedge the fastest seller of the age—the biggest money-maker for agents, general agents and managers ever invented.

## MAKE \$70 NEXT WEEK

Easy to start—easy to make big money if you will just follow instructions and work faithfully. No charge for territory. 200% profit to agents. Business supplies capital. Exclusive protection co-operation and assistance. Failure impossible. Nothing to risk. Success assured.

Easy to demonstrate—and every woman is anxious to see it work—then she would not do without it. No talking necessary. Just show the machine and take the order—one dollar profit on every call you make.

Send for application blank and complete information today—free. Investigate. Get the proof. Don't delay. Write a postal-card or letter right now. Territory is being assigned very fast. Get your county now—free. Write today.